East Dean & Friston
Parish Council

Date: **07 January 2020**

Title: **Report Item 18 – Correspondence**

By: **K Larkin (Parish Clerk)**

Purpose: **To report on correspondence received since the December meeting**

Recommendations: **To note the report**

The following items of correspondence have been received since the December council meeting:

- **Date of dissolution of East Dean Responders -** EDR Trustees have advised that 30 November is the date that the charity support ended for the parish. Cover continues from Eastbourne CFRs. The current aim is to close the charity by end January 2020.

- **Illegal hunting at Crowlink –** residents of Crowlink have reported illegal hunting activity in Crowlink field at night, and the police have taken up the case. The National Trust as the landowners have also been notified, and requested to padlock the vehicle gate giving access to the downland beyond their car park, and/or to put up a notice saying that the car park is closed from dusk until dawn, or even to install CCTV. The Sussex police have held a meeting with ten residents on site and confirmed that anyone caught out hunting with dogs day or night will be arrested, and anyone that witnesses people out lamping is to report it by dialling 999 and following this up with a report to the local police team. The parish council is requested to lend its weight to the drive to stop this activity, though the council has no actual powers under the Hunting Act 2004. It is suggested that it might install signage at the entrance to Crowlink Lane, or approve some other expenditure designed to detect or prevent crime.
- **Downs View Lane Verge Maintenance –** residents continue to take a keen interest in the future maintenance and possible replanting of this verge. In addition, the Tree Warden has offered to provide advice on, and assistance with, planning the re-planting and any ongoing maintenance in order to ensure native species that suit the local conditions are selected, correctly planted and appropriately maintained during the vital early years of growth. It is noted that some kind of condition may have been applied to protect the wild bird cherry trees growing on the northern verge back in 1982. It is also noted that the Neighbourhood Plan could usefully consider the replanting in the context of an overall management plan, supported by a digital mapping exercise.

- **Flying of drones in the parish –** the Residents' Association has reported that drones have been flown in the parish, and has drawn attention to the Civil Aviation Authority's Drone Code. There is a link to this code from the parish council's website. The parish council considered its policy on the flying of drones in April 2017. As the Code stipulates that drones must stay below 400ft (200m) and at least 150ft (50m) away from people and property, and must not be used for overflying, this means that drones must not be used on the Greensward, and may only be used to a very limited extent on the recreation ground. The council resolved not to permit the flying of drones for commercial purposes over council-owned land (the recreation ground and Friston Green). Resident has requested that the policy be strengthened to ban the flying the drones over council property at all.
- **Rocks at entrance to Micheldene Road** – a resident has reported that the boulders on the left hand grass verge as one approaches the A259 junction from the Estate are causing a hazard. However, these boulders are part of an initiative to prevent parking around the Micheldene Road/A259 junction, which has been a problem in recent months and itself causes a hazard.
- **Council bank balance reports** – a resident has requested that following the advice of the monthly Bank Balance to residents via the parish magazine, the council should also confirm that there were no material outstanding liabilities at that point. If there were then, some indication of the amount would be good.

03/01/2020