

Burwash Parish Council
Environment and Maintenance Working Group

Agenda

This is the agenda for the Environment and Maintenance Working Party meeting taking place on

Tuesday 16th June at 2pm

If anyone would like to include an item for a future agenda please contact Julian Kenny at
Cllr.julian.kenny@burwashpc.org.uk

Attendees: Anne Newson, Antonia Stapylton-Smith, Halina Keep, Heather Toll, Helga Castle, Julian Kenny (Chair)

1. Apologies for Absence

Andrew Mann, Simon Forster, Sylvie Franklin, Cllr Ian Reese

2. Disclosures of Interest

None

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

Accepted

4. High Weald AONB Pilot + Farm liaison

An update on the plans will be brought to the next meeting after a Zoom meeting is held with the High Weald AONB Unit. The idea of the project is to improve communication between landowners and the community. If the project works well, it will be rolled out to communities across the High Weald.

5. Biodiversity Report

Following acceptance by the Council to look at creating a biodiversity report. We discussed ways forward with the project. Many of the things that have been done already can be included in the report e.g. the information from the Neighbourhood plan. It is a big project and will need funding. It was decided that several of the projects that we are currently working on e.g. Verges, Down Meadow etc. should be included, Julian will contact Crowhurst to discuss ideas on ways forward for a Burwash biodiversity report. Once we have a clear idea of ways forward, we can contact schools and local groups e.g. Schools, Cubs and Guides etc. as it will be good to get young people involved. We can also contact Sussex Wildlife Trust to see what details they already have.

We discussed the idea of working with quadrats (meter square pieces of wood to focus on a specific area of grassland). Anne and Julian will discuss with Ross in their meeting this week. Once we have ideas from Ross and from Crowhurst, we can look at contacting the following people to see if they are able to support us:

- The Ranger (Kevin) at Batemans
- Simon to see if he has any people he can recommend e.g. his friend from Norfolk who did a report on Shrub Meadow
- Helen Frost, a local environmentalist who helped with Down Meadow
- Caroline Huband
- Bruce may want to be involved and may have some ideas on who we can contact. JK to send round list and we can work out who will contact each person. Ask. Bedgebury Pineatum

6. Kipling Statue

A discussion about protection for the Kipling bench in the High Street. It was decided that it would be difficult to protect the statue. If we raise the profile, it then raises it as a potential target publicly.

7. Down Meadow Update

Heather has done two visits to Down Meadow for a wild flower survey and will try to do several more with others e.g. Halina and Julian and possibly others. This month Heather has seen a few more species including willow herb. The issue of the increasing bracken was discussed and it was suggested that a group of us go up

to the site and break some of the stems (bracken bashing) as Simon had suggested previously. A few dates can be put round by email.

8. Environment Policy

The Dark Skies policy and the Climate Emergency doc that were passed in February along with the Environmental information we have developed so far can be included. It was pointed out that the current draft is just a model that we can develop and improve upon.

9. Items to be included on the next agenda

10. Date of next meeting and time to be agreed.

5pm a better time in 3 weeks – possibly on the Monday so that it doesn't clash with the full Council meeting. We will arrange a Doodle poll with a few options to make sure that we get as many people as possible JK to arrange.