

Burwash Parish Council
Environment and Maintenance Working Group

Agenda

This is the agenda for the Environment and Maintenance Working Party meeting taking place on
Wednesday 2nd September 2020

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, Dominie Stemp, Julian Kenny (Chair)

1. Apologies for Absence

Simon Forster

2. Disclosures of Interest

It has been suggested that disclosures of interest are now being removed from workstreams, but the group felt that it was important to retain this simple process to ensure that impartial decisions were made. There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

Accepted

4. High Weald AONB Pilot + Farm liaison

The High Weald Unit have informed us that there has been a delay in moving forward with this project over the summer, but that they hope to have some concrete ways forward in the coming weeks.

The group suggested setting up some meetings with local landowners to help improve communications as some landowners are unhappy with the treatment of their land/fences/animals etc by people who use the land, especially those who litter and do not pick up dog waste. There are also issues with people cutting fences, leaving gates open etc. It is hoped that the group can work with local landowners, including Batemans to create a forum to discuss local issues.

ACTION: Julian to contact the High Weald Unit and Batemans to discuss ways forward
Maybe get a meeting of local landowners to say what support they require.

5. Biodiversity Report

As previously mentioned this is a major project that will take a considerable amount of time to develop. We can use the Sussex Wildlife Trust Environment Report, the work that is being done on verges and the Crowhurst biodiversity report to help us develop our own report structure.

Developing the content will need a lot of work from volunteers to evaluate local wildlife. We can see whether local groups e.g. the school, scouts, guides would be interested in helping out.

ACTION: We will arrange a focused meeting with members in mid/late September to brainstorm ways forward with the project.

6. Climate Emergency Doc and Environmental Policy

This was accepted by the Council several months ago a copy will be sent to group members.

We have to create an Environmental Policy for the October Council meeting.

ACTION: Julian will send the Rother Environmental Policy template to group members. Members can send their views through to Julian who will create a draft that can be reviewed at the October meeting.

7. Down Meadow Update

We are awaiting legal advice

8. Footpath update

There is still no update from East Sussex on the footpath across the SSSI, although they are in weekly contact with Julian.

Another issue has been raised about misuse of a footpath behind the Glebe. We are awaiting more details on this.

9. Working with neighbouring environmental groups

We have been in contact with several Wild About Groups in the area and several members attend social sharing sessions. There are key issues that need to be developed across parishes e.g. creation of a Dark Skies reserve, verge maintenance, appropriate cutting regimes etc. As the Communications Workstream is looking at working with other parishes, we need to work in partnership with them to develop better communications with local parishes.

A local group has been in contact about protection of the environment in the Darwell area. We are waiting for them to arrange the first meeting.

10. Next agenda

Lund Grant timescales

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

We are liaising with the Clerk for a regular slot for meetings. This should be confirmed in the next day or so

The meeting ended at 6.40pm