

Burwash Parish Council
Environment and Maintenance Working Group
Minutes

Monday 12th October 2020 7pm

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

1. Present: Halina Keep, Simon Forster, Sylvie Franklin, Helga Castle, Antonia Stapylton-Smith, Anne Newson, Julian Kenny (Chair)

2. Apologies for Absence

None

3. Disclosures of Interest

None

1. Minutes from the previous meeting

Agreed

2. Burwash Environment Policy

It was proposed that we include a future dark skies reserve in the policy. Moving forward this will mean that future planning applications will have to be dark skies compliant.

ACTION: Julian will send round an updated Environment Policy to allow people to comment before the main Council meeting

3. Grass cutting

The grass cutting currently provided by East Sussex is only centred around Burwash village. The main road verges are only cut by Highways for safety.

ACTIONS:

- a. Julian to ask Emma to circulate the map showing the East Sussex cuts and to detail last year's charges
- b. Anne and Julian to ask colleagues at the Climate Emergency meeting on 21st about their policies on grass cutting.

4. Down Meadow Update

The latest updates will be discussed at tomorrow's main council meeting

5. SSSI Footpath update

Julian is still liaising with East Sussex Rights of Way and with the High Weald AONB Unit on the current fence issues. Several parishioners have written to the Rights of Way team to complain.

ACTION: The WaB team to email members to explain the issue and to give them the Rights of Way Team email if they want to add their views.

6. Lund Grants

Two Westdown Lane residents received a Lund grant this year to upgrade a hedgerow. The Parish Council or WaB could submit an application for a set of tools that could be used across the parish. Also, if the Down Meadow situation is resolved, we could apply for a grant to replace the leylandii with native species

ACTION: To be discussed at a future meeting as the deadline for applications will be in early Spring 2021

7. Biodiversity Report

It was agreed that this would be a really useful report for Burwash, but it is a mammoth task. It may be possible to get groups of people (e.g. Cubs, Guides) to look at certain areas over a year period, but there will have to be training to ensure consistency by all groups involved. We will need guidance on how to set up the report and the workload involved.

ACTION: Julian to ask the Crowhurst author to join a zoom to give us advice on how to set up a biodiversity report. The meeting could also be opened up to WaB members.

8. Next agenda

- Grit bins. There have been complaints about the bins on Shrub Lane and a new bin has been requested for Highfields but has not arrived. Some of the grit bins belong to the Parish Council and some belong to East Sussex/Highways. Julian will check with Emma who has a list of the grit bins that belong to the Parish Council. He will also check with Emma who the remains of an old litter bin on Shrub Lane as the twisted metal remains need to be removed.
- Replacing dead lime trees – there is a dead lime tree opposite car park in Burwash.
- Budget for Environment and Maintenance for 2021
- The huts in the car park need to be refurbished. We need to decide whether this will be overseen by the Communications Team who have already discussed it. We need to ensure that the refurbishment is environmentally friendly and that solar panels etc are included in the future works.
- Lund Grants

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

This will be done in association with The Clerk and the Admin Officer as we want to arrange a set time each month for the meeting.