

Burwash Parish Council
Environment and Maintenance Working Group
Minutes

Tuesday 16th February 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

Present: Halina Keep, Sylvie Franklin, Helga Castle, Antonia Stapylton-Smith, Colin Chapman,
Julian Kenny (Chair)

1. Apologies for Absence

Anne Newson

2. Disclosures of Interest

None

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

Agreed

4. Verge Cutting Pilot

Burwash has now been included in the E Sussex pilot with reduced cuts.

ACTION: Julian will send round details of the cutting regimen to all members

5. Hedgerow Survey

The aim of the survey is to see what the biodiversity the hedgerows have to offer across the parish and to log species. Ross from High Weald will arrange a training in early summer to train interested volunteers how to allocate hedgerow plants across the parish.

The High Weald AONB have started a new programme to reinstate old hedgerows. They are piloting the project with Crowhurst and Heathfield. It is hoped that we may be able to join the project in the Spring. There will be a small charge for a team of people to log missing hedgerows. Once we have the data, we can contact landowners to see whether they would be interested in reinstating the hedgerows.

6. Quiet Lanes

There has been an increase in traffic on the small single track lanes across the parish. This has resulted in verges being eroded by vehicles. There has also been an increased danger for other road users including, walkers, horse riders and cyclists. Some of the increase in traffic is due to drivers following SatNav, which doesn't currently give the option for drivers to avoid single track lanes. CPRE started a campaign in 2006 but now they have asked the Parish Council to get restarted something locally with the idea of getting a national campaign going to reduce traffic and speeds on single track lanes. As this is a transport issue it was felt that it would be better covered by the Traffic & Transport Group with the support from Environment & Maintenance on verge issues.

ACTION: Julian to pass on the Quiet Lanes Document to the Traffic and Transport Group

7. Lime Tree Adoption Scheme and Maintenance with Colin Chapman

There are 76 lime trees across the parish and the trees are pollarded by East Sussex every year. The adoptees of the trees have been responsible for trimming any lower growth, however, the current adoption process is out of date and several adoptees are no longer in the parish. Colin trimmed the majority of the trees last year and the Playing Fields kindly allowed him to put the cuttings on their compost site. Moving forward, we need to create a flyer for all adoptees to read and sign if they want to continue adopting the lime trees. The flyer will give details of what adoptees are expected to do on an annual basis and if they want to continue, they should sign and return the form to the Clerk.

There is also an issue with the brick pavements. As the pavements aren't listed, the County Council has not always repaired broken paving stones with similar old stones. The pavements are in a conservation area and Steve M bought several hundred paving stones for the pavements and Highways will repair these stones, but

the Parish Council will have to pay the difference between the cost of tarmacking and using the natural pavers. If there are issues, residents are encouraged to report the problem through the Highways Report a Problem webpage.

ACTIONS:

- Halina will check whether the Playing Fields will allow the cuttings to be put on their compost site again this year.
- Julian will ask Emma to pass on the name of someone at East Sussex for Colin to discuss lime tree pollarding
- Julian will draft a flyer and check it with Emma and Colin. Once agreed the flyer will be sent out to all listed lime tree adopters

8. Biodiversity Report Update

Julian attended a Rother event last week and will attend a half day session next month. The session focused environmentally focused planning decisions. Key points included:

- Reduction in native species and habitat loss
- Aim for a 20% gain in biodiversity
- The new Environment Bill covers a range of aspects on air quality, water, waste and resource, nature biodiversity and conservation covenants

ACTION – Julian to send round notes from the meeting

9. Parish Council Huts

The aim is to look into getting a WC in parish rooms and new windows and doors for parish office. This is because the existing toilets in the car park may be removed due to the cost of maintenance. There is a budget of £3k for the work on the huts. Which currently doesn't include solar panels as the roof is not strong enough to support them.

ACTION Invite Keith to the next meeting to give an update on work done so far and to help the group decide on a way forward.

10. Down Meadow Update

No information was available as it is still being discussed by lawyers.

11. Lund Grants

The deadline is March 8th

12. Next agenda

Lime trees
Parish huts

13. Date of next meeting – 16 March 7pm