

Burwash Parish Council

Environment and Maintenance Working Group

MINUTES

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

Tuesday 16th November 2021 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: Sylvie Franklin, Helga Castle, Lindsay Green, Antonia Stapylton-Smith, Julian Kenny (Chair)

1. Apologies for Absence

Colin Chapman, Halina Keep, Anne Newson

2. Disclosures of Interest

None

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

Agreed and accepted

4. Local Nature Recovery Strategies

There was a discussion on the questionnaire and general agreement that the answers have pretty obvious answers for Burwash.

ACTION Julian to draft answers and to send round to the group before sending to Emma

5. Verges

The Urban grass cuts are just limited to Burwash and the other smaller areas are cut by the handyman. Outside of this area ESCC will only cut if there are safety issues. The group will suggest to full Council that we take the option of ESCC doing 2 cuts for free and other cuts can be done by our existing contractors where necessary

There was interest in rural cuts and this will be discussed at the December meeting. Lindsay and some volunteers cut the verges on Swing Gate Hill. There are several other areas that the group felt needed cutting. Julian will ask Emma for a map of current cutting regime to inform the discussions at the December meeting.

ACTIONS: Julian to inform Emma that E+M suggest option 1 for the ESCC cut + to request a list of rural cuts, ideally an annotated map.

6. Allotments

At the last full council we were asked if the E+M group could provide some support to help us get some areas for allotments in the parish. There is a budget of £10,000 in next year's budget for allotments, but the group felt it would be better to find some land that could either be donated or rented for the purpose and the budget could be used for fencing and providing a water supply. Any land needs to have a lease of a minimum of 5 years.

ACTIONS: Brian to put a request for sites in the ebulletin. Julian to look into any support from government schemes ask Stephen Fitzgerald at Franchise to ask Emma if she knows any landowners who may have land available.

7. Liaising with neighbouring Councils

Wild About Burwash is liaising with local environmental groups and it has been really useful in knowledge sharing. It will also help in applying for funds e.g. Lund if more than one group/council is involved. The Clerk already liaises with all local clerks, but we felt it would be good if some members of the group could liaise with one council each on specific environmental issues e.g. Quiet Lanes and Dark Skies.

ACTIONS: As Sylvie is liaising with Brighling about Quiet Lanes, she will also discuss other environmental issues including dark skies. Antonia and Julian will also liaise with 2 councils and report back to the next meeting.

8. Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE)

Wild About Crowhurst sent us information on a campaign by Caroline Lucas on CEE. The group will review by email and decide whether to send on to Full Council.

The discussion widened after this to discuss some of the climate emergency suggestions that had been put to Full Council last year with the idea of moving forward with several of them. It was felt that it would be good to put some suggestions on what individual parishioners could do in the ebulletin and via the Wild About Burwash newsletter.

We discussed community transport and felt that we needed to look into options a little more including Age Concern Heathfield and the Battle Community bus as well as car sharing for shopping trips, although we will have to be careful with insurance on these.

Wild About Burwash is currently working with the scouts to train them in tree and hedgerow identification with the aim of getting tree preservation orders and protecting hedgerows across the parish. It was pointed out that a high number of trees that have been planted nationally are dying as they are not cared for effectively.

ACTIONS

- Julian will forward the CEE campaign to the group and members to decide via email if this is something that the group should put forward to the next Full Council meeting.
- Julian will contact Age Concern Heathfield to see whether they would be willing to organise a shopping trip into Heathfield for parishioners on their community bus once a fortnight and to check with the Battle Community bus about timings of their route b74 and to see whether they would be able to organise a regular shopping run for parishioners.

9. Items for the next agenda:

Rural cuts, allotments, community transport, climate and ecological emergency ways forward.

10. Date of next meeting 16 Dec 7pm Zoom