

Burwash Parish Council

Environment and Maintenance Working Group

MINUTES

These are the minutes for the Environment and Maintenance Working Party meeting that took place on

Thursday 17th February 2022 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: Colin Chapman, Lindsay Green, Halina Keep, Helga Castle, Sylvie Franklin, Antonia Stapylton-Smith, Julian Kenny (Chair)

1. Apologies for Absence

Anne Newson

2. Disclosures of Interest

None

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

Agreed

4. Rural Cuts

As the schedule for East Sussex won't be uploaded until the end of April or early May, it was decided to wait until then to see what the cut schedule is. Last year 2 cuts were scheduled between 24th May – 8th June + 6th September and 21st September.

Questions were raised about the grass along the High Street between Ham Lane Burghurst by the church and the grass in front of the church to the square. Colin kindly offered to borrow the Parish Council's battery powered mower try to do the work.

5. Allotments

Fiona Hosein has suggested that there is a possibility of some land by the tennis courts at Swan Meadow. The Swan Meadow management group have suggested that they would prefer a biodiversity area first of all and following that they could look at the allotment area. It was suggested that the Parish Council would pay for the set up and water to be added to the site and possibly a storage space, although it was suggested that allotment users may be able to use space in one of the containers on site. It was also agreed that income from the rental income would go the Swan Meadow.

ACTION: Antonia and Julian to create a proposal to put to Swan Meadow.

6. Footpaths and Bridleways –

The government cancelled today the deadline for footpaths and bridleways to be registered. However, there is an application for a historic bridleway to be reinstated. The proposed bridleway will go through the garden of Swanfield at the end of Footh Lane. There was a discussion about the limited number of circular bridleways for riders, however, this proposed bridleway would only connect on to the A265. Sylvie has contacted the British Horse Society (BHS) to see whether there would be funding for making good any of the proposed bridleway that is not suitable for horses or cyclists, although they were not aware of the application. The Burwash Common and Weald Residents Association were not aware of the proposed bridleway and will discuss it at their next meeting on 7 March.

ACTIONS: Sylvie to send through the communication with BHS and Julian to send Lindsay and Colin info for the Residents' Association meeting.

7. Jubilee Trees

The Community and Communications (C+C) group have asked us to look into planting trees for the Queen's jubilee and one specific tree for the Chairman of the Parish Council to plant. We need to act on this quite

quickly as ideally trees should be planted by the end of March (the Chairman's tree needs to be planted on March 11th). We have been offered 72 trees by Crowhurst as they have been provided with too many trees,. The key thing is to find areas for the trees to be planted. Many areas were discussed, but it was decided to focus on the two communal areas of Swan Meadow and the Burwash Common Pavilion.

We also discussed the lime trees in the village. The sponsorship scheme was set up by a previous Councillor and we do not have all of the details of sponsors and or plans. Amy Mack has made a range of suggestions about the lime trees moving forward. It was suggested that we liaise with the C+C to discuss ways forward and to jointly agree a paper to put to full council. The group felt that it would be good to look into the history of the trees, they also felt had some suggestions to the list of ideas:

- Plaques should not be used (apart from the plaque for Jackie Nash)
- Any lighting for trees at Christmas and special occasions should only be used until 11pm to protect the parish's dark skies

ACTIONS: 1. Lindsay to contact the Pavilion and Julian to contact Swan Meadow for possible trees planting 2. Antonia to contact Keith Lloyd to see whether he has some old photos of the trees. Julian to liaise with C+C about suggestions for the Lime Trees with the idea of putting a paper outlining ways forward to full Council.

8. Community Transport

The group agreed that the idea of sharing a minibus with other villages would not be a good idea because of insurance, repairs volunteer drivers etc. However, the group did feel that we need to find a solution to help local residents who do not have car access and especially if they live off the main roads and bus routes. Some suggestions included setting up a dial a bus system, approaching local taxi firms and hiring a minibus with driver a day or two a week. The group felt that we should liaise with the C+C to look at ways of finding out the needs of local residents to help us decide on ways forward.

ACTION: Julian to discuss ways forward with C+C

9. Newts

Funding is available for residents to restore or to create ponds on their lands to host newts. Landowners who sign up will receive a hosting payment over 25 years for hosting newts in their ponds. It was felt that this opportunity should be publicised in the newsletter and via Wild About Burwash (WAB).

ACTION: Julian to ask Emma to include details in an upcoming ebuletin and to publicise to WAB members.

10. SSSI Footpath

At a shoot on 1st February the shooters were shooting across the road and across a footpath even when walkers informed the shooters that dog walkers were coming through. The issue has been raised with the Rights of Way Team, St Sussex Rural Police and the Ramblers. Other shoots in and around the parish act in a more appropriate way by putting up signs (especially for those who have hearing problems) and they pause shoots for walkers. We would like to find out contact details for the shoot by Willingford Bridge above the SSSI fields so that we can discuss ways that they can work better with the community.

ACTION: Julian to ask Keith Lloyd if he knows who runs the Willingford Lane shoot.

11. Liaising with neighbouring Councils

Although Antonia and Julian have made contact with Brightling and Dallington Parish Councils, they are waiting to hear from the appropriate Councillors. They have also been in touch with Crowhurst who have completed their biodiversity audit. Full Council voted to agree for us to create a full audit for our parish. We will need volunteers to help us log the detail required. An audit was done for the parish in 2017. We can use this as a way forward, but having volunteers to help us create a full audit will help us protect the green spaces that we have moving forward.

ACTION: Julian to forward the 2017 audit and the Crowhurst audit to members of the group

12. South East Water

The deadline for us to respond to South East Water has now passed.

13. Mobile signal in Burwash Weald

This has been an ongoing issue for some time. The Burwash Common and Weald Residents Association are in regular contact with BT to maintain the phone box in front of the Wheel. The group felt that we should be pushing for more reception in the area. It was suggested that we ask both Rother and BT about possible ways forward.

ACTIONS: Lindsay will contact BT about solutions and Julian will ask Emma to ask Rother for solutions.
Lindsay to contact BT to ask for proposals

14. Handyman jobs –

As we do not currently have handyman, Emma has asked whether volunteers (possibly paid) could do some of the work. We will ask for a list of the jobs and discuss at the next meeting.

ACTION: Julian to ask Emma for a list of handyman jobs

15. Next agenda Handyman jobs and changing the new SSSI fenced path

16. Date of next meeting Tuesday 15th March 7pm