

Burwash Parish Council

Environment and Maintenance Working Group

These are the Minutes for the Environment and Maintenance Working Party meeting that took place on
Tuesday 15th March 2022 7pm
The meeting took place on Zoom.

1. Apologies for Absence

Anne Newson

2. Disclosures of Interest

None

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

Agreed

4. Emergency Plan

The group praised the work of Graham Lewis of St Philips for opening the Burwash Common Pavilion as it had power when most of the parish didn't. We also discussed things that we should encourage people to have at home including matches, candles, LED lights, a hot water bottle, a camping gas stove and paraffin lamps. We also discussed the idea of sharing resources e.g. generators. The group will discuss ideas and create a full list at the next meeting.

The group discussed the possibility of setting up a group that used to deal with emergencies in the parish, the Burwash Emergency Action Team Scheme (BEATS). This will also be discussed at the next meeting.

During the recent storms people who still had attached phone lines, but no electricity were not able to use their phones as they were electronic. As BT is looking to phase out the dial phones, the group felt that the policy to stop use of dial phones should be abandoned. This proposal should be shared with other parishes so that clerks across the region can contact BT.

ACTIONS: 1. Group members will bring ideas of items that can be shared to the next meeting to enable us to create a list of items that we can encourage people to have available. 2. Julian to contact Steve Mintram to ask about the BEATS scheme. 3. Emma to contact BT to get them to stop the phase out of dial phones and to share this idea with other clerks.

5. Handyman Jobs

The group felt that there were many jobs on the list that could be done by volunteers, although some of the items on the list should be covered by central services e.g. pavers in the High Street should be covered by Highways. Julian will discuss the list with Emma and look at what we can get done by volunteers and the Love Burwash team. As mentioned in the list, insurance could be an issue with volunteers.

ACTION: Julian to discuss the list with Emma and bring back ideas to the next meeting.

6. SSSI Footpath Rerouting + Tree Felling + Rural Police

Sylvie showed the group a detailed image of the footpath across the SSSI which shows that the fence has moved the path from the path identified by the East Sussex Dedicated Map Team. We will send detail of the change of the path to the Dedicated Map Team and ask them to get the fence moved.

Julian has had a response from the Forestry Commission confirming that there was a license for Pondfield Wood to cut 30% of the trees in one area and for coppicing in another area. As the cut is much more than this, Julian will respond to inform them about the extent of the felling.

The Rural Police have been in touch with the team of the shoot who were shooting over the footpath on the SSSI. The shoot will use effective signage and members with walkie talkies moving forward to ensure the safety of walkers on the shoot.

7. Communication with Comms Workstream

The Comms Workstream are taking forward the idea of a community transport initiative. They will also discuss Amy's ideas for the lime trees. Members of E+M who are on Comms will put forward E+M's views at the next meeting.

Antonia contacted Keith about old photos of the lime trees. Colin will liaise with Keith to get copies of the photos.

8. Allotments

The only current opportunity for allotments is the land at the end of Swan Meadow. The Swan Meadow team will discuss ideas moving forward.

9. South East Water – deadline passed

There was an extension to the deadline and Julian responded to the questionnaire about water use over the next 40 years on behalf of E+M and the Council

10. Next agenda

Biodiversity Report – Julian will discuss the possibility of getting an updated Sussex Wildlife report with Emma

Check with emma why our group isn't on website

11. Date of next meeting and time to be agreed

Tuesday 19th April 7pm online