

Burwash Parish Council

Environment and Maintenance Working Group

Agenda

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

Tuesday 6th September 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

1. Apologies for Absence

Lindsay, Halina

2. Disclosures of Interest

None

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

Agreed

4. Down Meadow Update

We are discussing mediation and hope to have a clear way forward with that soon.

5. Drought Issues

There was a discussion about the issues facing Burwash including: Fire risk and water leaks

Highways no longer tell people about leaks and now receive money for closing roads

There may be a link between leaks and droughts e.g farmers/builders have licence to take water

Another issue is fire. Fire issues are obviously raised during periods of drought. Trimmings from trees and branches can create a fire risk.

The fire brigade would come and give a talk on fire prevention at next year's AGM. In the meantime, we could on prevention e.g. moving fire wood before placing it on the fire to protect small mammals and insects e.g. hedgehogs. include an article in the parish magazine and explain details Link to E-Bulletin saying that the fire brigade will do visits. The articles can encourage people to move fires to another site before burning fire to protect hedgehogs etc.

Moving forward we can include drought issues as part of the emergency plan.

ACTIONS: Ask Emma to take it to contact OFWAT to complain about leaks in the Parish and to request a list of licensed users and see if there is a link to the leaks. Ask her to take the responses back to RALC to see if a united way forward could help. Also get a short statement about fire risk in the E-Bulletin.

6. High Street Trees

Colin is just about to start trimming the trees. It would be useful to get some volunteers to help.

Call in the E-Bulletin to ask for volunteers to help Colin with an autumn cut and again in the spring

The last pollarding was done in February. However, this is not a good time as the branches are too big in the autumn and there are too many leaves in autumn which block drains etc and people may have accidents because the leaves on the pavement make it very slippery. If someone does fall, who would be responsible – us or County? We need to return to an autumn prune/pollard. If County are unable to do that this year, we can ask Frogheath to do an autumn cut and ask County to do an autumn cut from 2023 onwards.

ACTIONS:

- Ask Emma to contact County to ask them to pollard trees every October. If this is complicated ask her to get a one of October pollarding cost from Frogheath for October this year and then ask County to return to an October pollard from next year.
- Ask Emma to put a request for volunteers in the next E-Bulletin.

7. Emergency Plan

Terry talked us through the current legislation which doesn't mention parish councils at the moment. He has done quite a bit of research and in Rother, only 1 Parish Council has come up with a plan that seems to

function is Brightling. The Sussex Reliance forum information is not up to date at the moment and East Sussex are rewriting the national guidance. The updated version is likely to have sections for floods, pandemics, fires and aircraft incidents.

The aim is to gather information and write our own plan that links to Rother and East Sussex plans.

Some key things that we need to include:

- A list of phone numbers that will need to be kept up to date and also be GDPR compliant.
- Some support items that can be kept in the parish rooms including:
 - o A battery charging unit for people to be able to charge items and mobile phones (although mobile networks may be switched off in large scale emergencies to ensure that emergency services have full access)
 - o Raynet – a network which may be able to help when comms etc break down.
 - o Brightling have a small team as a first response group. We could consider something similar
 - o Availability of buildings for evacuations – each building will need its individual plan
 - o Promotion of what individual households should have available
 - o Planning tool kit
 - o Local risk assessment
 - o Local skills and resources – people with chain saws etc, although this info goes out of date quite quickly

Terry is going to look into the following areas and report back to the October meeting:

- Local Risk Assessment
- First steps in an Emergency
- Key Locations identified with Emergency Services for use as place of safety
- Actions agreed with emergency services in the event of an evacuation

He would like volunteers to look into the following areas:

- Emergency Contact list
- Local Skills and Resources Assessment
- Telephone Tree
- List of community organisations to identify vulnerable people Activation triggers
- Community Emergency Group first meeting Agenda (To agree this Group First)
- Alternative Arrangements in case communications disrupted

Sylvie has passed on a list of things that we can take to Full Council to look at purchasing. They can be held in the Parish Room:

- 2 x camping gas stoves £32.00
- 2 x 4 pack gas cylinders £12.00
- 2 x cook set £20.00
- Nomad solar panel £80.00
- Leisure battery £75.00
- Street wise power converter £52.00
- Mains Lead £35.00
- CTEK battery charger £70.00
- 40 tins soup £35.00

ACTION: Ask Emma to put the Emergency Plan on the agenda and look into purchasing the priced items for the Parish Council to hold in the office.

8. Waterloo Farm Footpath Change

Antonia has recently visited Waterloo Farm and informed the group that the proposed change was minor and would have no effect on walkers or on the parish

9. Next agenda

Emergency Plan

10. Date of next meeting and time to be agreed

Tuesday 4th October 7pm online