

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 15th November 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. Attendees: Sylvie, Helga, Halina, Colin, Terry, Antonia, Julian

2. Apologies for Absence

Anne

3. Disclosures of Interest

None

4. Minutes from the previous meeting

Agreed

With the High Street trees, it was pointed out that some of the trees are not in a great condition and may need replacing. Julian will check to find out whose responsibility it is and we can ask the pollarders their advice.

5. Down Meadow Update

The group reviewed the Down Meadow Plan from several years ago. Because of the legal issues, not much has been done with the plan, apart from the bracken cutting at the end of the summer. Moving forwards, we need to return to the plan and to decide how the management of each of the areas will work. Bracken removal is a priority. We will need to ensure that we trample it or pull it regularly from the Spring. We discussed getting children from schools or groups involved in the development of the site moving forwards. It was pointed out that large groups may not be allowed due to the covenant on the land. Sylvie will check and let us know at the next meeting. It was suggested that we should look into getting cameras in the bat boxes etc that we put up on the site so that they can be viewed by locals. Moving forward we need to develop a month by month plan for Down Meadow + to review the map of the site. We also need to check on insurance for volunteers working there. It is important that locals are kept informed about the management of Down Meadow, so we need to liaise with BCWRA and local residents.

Actions: Sylvie will check the Down Meadow documents to see whether groups of children are able to access the site. Julian will check with Emma about insurance and ask Simon/ Helen for Down Meadow management map and ask Keith about how to liaise with local residents.

6. Emergency Plan

Terry has done a considerable amount of work on the Emergency Plan. He is sending numbered copies of the current plan to the Sussex Resilience Group, ESCC resilience, Sussex Police, ESFRS, SECAM and Rother DC. The reason for the numbered copies as there are personal numbers and details about sensitive facilities e.g. water/electric plants.

Terry has contacted the possible evacuation centres. The Village Hall, Swan Meadow and Burwash Common Pavilion. The Village Hall and Swan Meadow have already responded with details of their resources, Julian will ask a new contact at the Pavilion. The facilities at the Village Hall and Swan Meadow Pavilion are limited. Neither has standby electrical power. We are looking at working with other neighbouring parishes. Terry is in contact with Etchingham and negotiations on joint use of centres is on hold until they have reviewed their own Emergency Plan. We will look at sharing facilities with adjoining parishes including Broad Oak, although it may work slightly differently as it is in Wealden.

There are still a range of issues that need resolving, including Emergency power. Solar does not seem to be an option as the charge doesn't hold for long. The group discussed types of generators + fuel (inc tractors) and maintenance. Generators – tractors can be hooked up to generators.

A copy of the plan will go on the parish council website, but personal numbers and sensitive information will be removed. We would also like to use a self-help leaflet. Terry will contact the Sussex Resilience Partnership to see whether they will fund the printing of the document so that it can be sent to all houses in the parish.

The group thanked Terry for all his work on the plan so far.

Actions Terry will continue the development of the plan. Julian will contact the Pavilion to see whether they can act as an emergency hub and ask Emma to contact Wealden to see where they are with their plan.

7. Charging electric cars

At the end of the meeting we discussed electric car charging. If anyone would like to hear more, they can attend the Car Park group as this is being discussed there.

8. Next agenda

Wildflower areas from Comms – Julian to check with Keith about the Vicarage Road wildflower areas.

9. Date of next meeting and time to be agreed

Tuesday 17th January online