

Burwash Parish Council

Community and Communications Working Party

Draft Minutes for meeting on Thursday 1st December at 7pm

Attended by: Cllr Fiona Hosein, Cllr Keith Lloyd, Cllr Brian Newman (chair), Cllr Domine Stemp, Cllr Berry Wraight, Sylvie Franklin, Halina Keep

1. Apologies for Absence:

none

2. Disclosures of Interest

None

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

Agreed at previous Council meeting

4. Updates

November Mailing

There was a discussion as to the purpose, layout and monitoring of Newsletters. It is not possible to ascertain how well the Newsletter was received but the density of the text may have inhibited some recipients from reading it. Maybe not all pieces of information were of equal importance, and readers could have been referred to the web site for more details, and inviting feedback. However, the information provided by the Council in the Newsletter was important.

Target dates for the next mailing:

The next Newsletter is due to be sent out in the Spring and will contain information about the election of Councillors amongst other matters. It needs to be written by mid-March and ready for printing and despatch by the beginning of April.

5. Christmas

Greg has offered to help with the Village tree

Berry has decorated the Council's tree at St Bartholomew's and was thanked for this as well the many other tasks she has taken on during the year.

6. Wildflower plantings across the parish

As the EM Working Party have asked us to take a lead on this, Brian shared some information he had been given.

A company called Sow Wild, (www.sowwild.co.uk) based in Heathfield, was responsible for planting the areas in Heathfield. The contact is Chris Davis, whose other company is Agri Factors. If the planting is on ESCC managed land, we would need an agreement with them, but an approach to them could be welcomed: there was no problem in agreeing to the planting in Heathfield.

The area at the top of Uplands Park cost about £600. In order to be ready for 2023, the 1st Spray would need to take place by 1st April and the seeds sown by the end of April. Chris would be very happy to talk to the Council about this project. Keith suggested another local source of help: Graham Bruce.

Possible sites for planting were

- The triangle near the bus stop at Vicarage Lane: the owner of the property has already made clear her support for the project.
- The land at Highfields – is this managed by the council?

- The area behind the bus stop, opposite the shop in the Village – this is privately owned land, but the owner has been very supportive of other uses of the land.
- An area behind the bus stop at Strand Meadow, managed by the Council.

Other areas could be suggested, once the principle has been agreed

It was suggested that a meeting be called with those offering to help manage the project to determine its feasibility, including the nature of any planting, the maintenance of any scheme and the likely cost.

Resolution: To agree the principle of planting areas in each of the three communities, at least at sites along the main road. If this is agreed, then to have meetings with the two contacts who have offered, in one case to help manage the project, and in the other to ascertain if they would be willing to manage such a project.

7: Warm Hubs

Emma is monitoring the use of Warm Hubs, but it was felt that the weather was not yet cold enough to draw many people in to the scheme. There was some discussion as to the reasons why the scheme may not be the option of choice for some, particularly the elderly and those living in more remote locations.

8. AOB

An email has been received from a parishioner which raised some important issues about communication with the Council.

It was intended that a Councillor should attend on Thursdays, to be available to parishioners who might want to raise an issue, and to allow Emma to focus on Council administration. However, not all Thursday's have been covered. Councillors should be encouraged to support this scheme but we recognised that not all have available time. If parishioners want to talk to a Councillor, it is suggested that they be offered an appointment with an appropriate Councillor who has knowledge of the area that needs to be discussed. This would avoid them being disappointed that the issues they wanted to raise could not be dealt with on a Thursday or with someone who had little direct knowledge of the subject.

It was felt that Council Meetings should be preceded by a short period – perhaps 30 minutes - of informal conversations with members of the public who want to be present. Simple refreshments could be provided to make this time more appealing.

There was concern that in discussions not all Councillors were audible, and it was suggested that we should all be aware that, although parishioners cannot join freely in the business of the meeting, it is important that they are able to hear what is being discussed and to see any images being projected.

Working Party chairs could be invited to explain what their group was currently prioritising, as with the Comms WP at the previous meeting.

Action: Keith to look at the possibility of using the projector and big screen at meetings.

It was suggested in a response to the circulation of these draft minutes that a more dyslexic friendly font is used. These draft minutes are in Tahoma. Any comments?

Next Meeting: Thursday 19th January

DRAFT