

Burwash Parish Council
Environment and Maintenance Working Group

Minutes

Minutes of the Environment and Maintenance Working Party

Thursday 8th June 2023 at 7pm

If anyone would like to include an item for a future agenda, please contact

Cllr Terry Johns/ cllr.terry.johns@burwashpc.org.uk

1. Attendees.
Sylvie Franklin, Helga Castle, Cllr. Colin Chapman, Lindsey Green, Cllr. Scott Chambers and Cllr. Terry Johns (Chair).
2. Apologies for Absence.
None received.
3. Disclosures of Interest.
None.
4. Terms of Reference for the Environment and Working Party.
The terms of Reference circulated with the agenda. Accepted as existing, no additions or amendments necessary.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th Feb 2023.
Agreed.
6. Management of High Street Trees.
Residents have been complaining about the fact that the high street trees have not been pollarded this year, resulting in extensive growth. The issue is the loss of light in adjacent houses and the danger to pedestrians, caused by low branches. One resident has unfortunately commenced pollarding trees at one end of the high street.

The parish clerk has had extensive discussions with East Sussex Council regarding this issue. The officer responsible has informed us that the trees could be damaged by shock if pollarding is carried out at this time of year.

An enforcement notice has been issued to a resident to stop further damage to the trees.

WP members expressed concern over the advice we have received regarding pollarding and felt, the Health and Safety of Residents and pedestrians should take priority.

This item raised two other closely related issues:

The **High Street pavers** have still not received attention. Early this year the parish Clerk surveyed the high street pavers with a highways steward. The Clerk can confirm that this is a live issue with highways and planned repairs will take place over the Summer.

High Street Tree Base Planting

Members expressed concern over the state of the planting around the base of the trees. It is understood that this planting was carried out by the Horticultural Society specifically for the Queens Jubilee and it was made clear at the time that it was for that specific event and there are no plans to maintain the continued planting. Some residents, however, chose to continue and maintain the planting. Whilst it would enhance the look of the village, the cost of maintenance would be considerable. It was hoped, the tree adoptees might maintain this planting, but concern was expressed many adoptees may no longer be with us or, moved out of the area.

Lindsay asked that the Pine Trees in Burwash Common, location triangle of Vicarage Road and Vicarage Lane, be subject to a safety survey. They are now extremely tall and have not been surveyed since 2021.

7. Emergency Plan.

The Self-Help Leaflet is now on the Parish Web Site (Parish Council Heading/Emergency plan).

The Emergency Plan Equipment Boxes have arrived and are being filled with the initial basic equipment, blankets and workplace first aid boxes. When complete with a bound copy of the Emergency Plan these will be stored at the two main identified Evacuation Centres, The Village Hall and the Pavilion Burwash Common. As the planning develops it will identify further equipment to increase our ability to respond to emergencies.

Terry has been liaising with Burwash Pavilion Committee regarding the cost of installing wiring for the connection of an external emergency power supply. Electricians are indicating a much smaller generator will be required to provide ancillary power to the main circuits in an emergency. It is hoped to present this information to the next WP meeting August.

8. Down Meadow Update.

Maintenance will be required in the near future to control the growth of Bracken, which is proving to be an annual task. The parish clerk has been discussing this issue with the Scout leaders who are keen to get involved.

Terry to liaise with Julian and Lindsay regarding volunteers and timescale.

Telephone box/Corner of Highfields.

The Clerk has indicated that plans are in place to temporarily remove the telephone box so that it can be dipped to remove the paint and refurbished before being replaced at the same location. It will be fitted out with wooden shelving so that it can be used as a book exchange as planned. It was suggested that the internal fittings

should include a rack for information leaflets. It was also suggested that the box be stored safely after refurbishment and only refixed once building works on the old garage is complete.

9. Wildflower Meadow Planting.

The contractor that was commissioned to carry out the work was unable to do so and therefore no planting has been carried out this year. The parish council now has the opportunity to review this project and plan for a more seasonal planting period, leading to wildflower verges in 2024.

WP members were asked to reflect on the choice of wildflower planting and confirm the planned locations. Lindsay was asked to examine any potential sites in Burwash Common. The WP should plan to make any recommendations to Parish Council by late August.

11. Items for next WP meeting on the 10th August 2023

Climate Emergency – Carbon Footprint Report for Burwash. To discuss impact on Parish Councils areas of responsibility. Copy to be forwarded to all WP members.