

**Burwash Parish Council
Environment and Maintenance Meeting**

**Minutes of the Working Party Meeting on 23rd November 2023 at
7pm
Held Virtually on Zoom**

Attended By: Cllr Terry Johns (chair), Cllr Scott Chambers, Cllr Colin Chapman, Cllr Natalie Crabtree, Helga Castle, Julian Kenny, Silvia Franklin

1. Apologies for Absence.

Halina Keep & Lindsay Green.

2. Disclosure of Interest

There were none

3. Minutes of the previous meeting on 21st September 2023

Approved by the Full Council

4. Management of High Street Trees

Interim trimming of the base of the Lime trees nearly complete thanks to Colin and Brian. The remaining base trimming to be completed when weather improves.

Chair asked to confirm the date for Pollarding in 2024

5. Emergency Plan

The chair has discussed this with the Parish Chair possible costs for static generators in the region of 15/16k per generator.

It was generally felt by the Parish council that the cost was excessive and requested a review of the standby power provision which would limit the cost to the basic requirements for emergency operation.

Cllr Franklin suggested a smaller portable unit, possibly run by LPG which he has experience of using in the past.

The Chair will continue to research the provision in the hope that a more reasonable costing can be obtained

An item has been included in the Parish Bulletin regarding the gathering of information on vulnerable residents on the basis of self identification.

Cllr Franklin has identified a contact in the emergency services which holds data on vulnerable residents. The chair to follow this up.

An item to seek Volunteer Teams to crew Evacuation Centres has been drafted and should appear in the next Parish Bulletin

Once we have identified Emergency Centre Volunteers we will need to arrange some training for them and the Critical Incident Team Members in the new year.

It was suggested that a training syllabus should be drawn up for initial and on-going refreshers. Chair to prepare a draft for the next meeting

6 Carbon Footprint Report

The Carbon footprint for Burwash Parish has now been made available on the Parish website.

7. Waste Minerals Local Plan Review

Copies of the Waste Mineral local Plan Review had been circulated to WP members in advance of the meeting. Having read through the review there appears to be no direct changes which would affect Burwash Parish. WP members are asked to forward any comments to the Chair.

8. Feedback from Tree Warden Webinar.

Julian joined the Webinar on behalf of the WP on the 30th Oct. The advice given was initially very basic, however the Forestry England input was very useful, providing information on tree protection and planting.

9. Downs Meadow Maintenance

The Chair indicated that the contractors had been unable to access the meadow to commence work due to the continual wet weather.

Julian expressed concern over the degree of clearance especially in those areas where natural animal habitat had already taken hold. He also referred to the plan for the maintenance and development of Down Meadow which had been approved by Full Council, a copy of which has now been forwarded to the Chair.

The Parish Clerk has had complaints from a number of boundary neighbours concerning the Brambles and undergrowth invading their

gardens. The Clerk has requested that the contractors clear the undergrowth from the meadow boundary area. As agreed at the last meeting on the 21st Sept 2023, contractors have been asked to clear the overgrown areas which are out of control to allow managed meadow planting.

The Chair asked Julian to discuss with the Clerk if he had concerns as to the degree of contractors work conflicting with the Meadow Plan agreed by the Parish Council.

10. Wild Meadow Planting

The planned Wildflower Meadow planting has not commenced due to difficulties in agreeing contractors and location of test sites. A discussion took place regarding the opportunity to undertake the project this year and the possible sites.

The working party suggested the one site for 2024, at the top of Batemans Lane, which could be used to test methodology and success rate. It was suggested that Wild about Burwash be approached to see if they would be willing to take on the test project site and seeding. It was accepted that grass cutting of the area would have to cease before and after planting. Julian to sound out WAB to see if they are willing to take on the project.

11. Safety Audit of Trees at Hornbeam, Burwash

The chair advised members that a recent survey of trees at Hornbeam, Burwash uncovered a number of serious issues. The original trees had been planted in the location of an old pond that had been subject to infill. As a result of the wet weather this year root movement has taken place. Sink holes around the bases has resulted in the need for temporary fencing for safety. A list of proposed work required has been forwarded to the clerk.

12. Catsfield Solar Power initiative.

It has been noted that Catsfield are currently developing a community solar power project to supply electricity to the community. The project is at the early stages but it is worth the WP monitoring progress.

Date of the Next Meeting: Thurs 12th January 2024 1900hrs Zoom

Item's for the Next Agenda: To be forwarded to Cllr Terry Johns