

**Burwash Parish Council  
Environment and Maintenance Meeting**

**Minutes of the Working Party Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm  
Held Virtually on Zoom**

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

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Julian Kenny, Lindsay Green.

**2. Disclosure of Interest**

No Disclosures of Interest

**3. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2023**

Agreed

**4. Emergency Plan Update**

Meetings arranged with electrician at Village Hall and Burwash Pavilion to discuss estimates for installation of standby power connections and, the required Voltage. Only essential lighting, power points and central heating to be linked to standby power. Chair is planning to present costs at the next Parish Council meeting in February.

Poor response to Parish Bulletin seeking self-identification of vulnerable residents who may need assistance in an emergency. This information is held by Rother and Sussex Police, Chair to discuss with those agencies regarding access.

Draft Training Plan for Response Team and Volunteers was presented and agreed by Working Party. Item requesting Volunteers to support the emergency operation of the Evacuation Centres has just gone out on the Parish Bulletin. Training will be provided in early Spring based on the response received.

The provision of basic food supply for the centres was discussed and Cllr Scott asked to undertake some research into the viability of storage of basic supplies; such as Tea and Coffee. Discussions in the past have included basics such as soup and tinned goods. Shelf life and replacement costs are the main issues. Alternatively, the availability of fresh goods in an emergency.

## **5. East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Local Plan**

Members were asked to consider the above mentioned plan at the November meeting. The Plan outlines the continuation of existing waste management and, has no direct implications for Burwash.

## **6. Down Meadow Maintenance**

The bad weather during December and January has prevented contractors from carrying out work required to clear the boundary of brambles and undergrowth entering neighbours gardens. The WP members expressed concern over the likely cost and frequency of the continuing maintenance. It was suggested that neighbouring properties are advised that the Parish Council would have no objection to them cutting back any unwanted vegetation entering their garden.

## **7. Wild Meadow Planting**

Julian has advised he and Antonia, will meet with Wild about Burwash shortly to discuss the project involving planting Wild Flowers on the triangle at the top of Batemans Lane. The Parish Clerk has discussed this with East Sussex Highways and, providing we leave a 1.5 metre area of grass next to the kerb to allow clear vision for traffic exiting the lane, they have no objection.

## **8. Update on Trees at Hornbeam**

The work to make the trees safe at end of Hornbeam, has been delayed due to weather and receipt of costings. Parish Clerk is dealing.

## **9. Community Energy Fund**

Chair had forwarded document detailing the opportunities offered by the Community Energy Fund. An example of this in action is the proposed Solar Farm Project in Crowhurst, which has been taken forward by Crowhurst Parish Council working with the Community Energy Fund. The project has been extremely well supported by the community and in

particular, by a local farmer providing the land for the solar farm. The project is explained on the following web site.

<https://www.energisesussexcoast.co.uk/projects/crowhurst-solar-farm/>

The WP accepted that Burwash will have many hurdles to cross if we wished to duplicate such a scheme. Not least of which, is we sit in an area of AONB and much of the land around us is owned by the NT. The WP considered that further research into the opportunities should be explored. The chair to obtain further information.

**10 Date of the Next Meeting: Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024**