

These are draft minutes and are subject to approval at the next meeting.

FERRING PARISH COUNCIL

Environment, Amenities and Footpaths Committee (Advisory Powers)

**Report on the meeting of the above Committee
held at 19.30 hours on Thursday 10 August 2017 at the Parish Office**

Present	Councillors	Geoff Mines (Chair)
		Maura Blackburn
		Ruth Sims
		Stephen Abbott
		Frazer Palmer
		Stephen Horne
	Tree Warden	Simon Adams
	FRSA	Richard Potton
	Conservation Group	Patricia Hall
	Assistant Parish Clerk	Freda Collins

1	<p>Election of Chairman Ruth Sims proposed Geoff Mines Seconded by Stephen Abbott There being no other nominations, Cllr Mines was duly elected.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies for Absence Carole Robertson</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of Interest None</p>	
4	<p>Review of the Remit The remit was reviewed and agreed.</p>	
5	<p>Public Question Time No members of the public were present.</p>	

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6	<p>Minutes of last meeting The minutes of 4 May 2017 had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
7	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes AP47-renewal of contracts. All contracts have been renewed. AP48-memorial benches. Arun DC no longer runs a memorial seat scheme. But they have no objection if Ferring PC wanted to install and maintain a seat. Agreement would have to be put in place prior to any installation. AP58- nettles on Sea Lane. It was noted that there are still nettles along the footpath in Sea Lane. The Assistant Clerk will contact WSCC again. AP59- register of areas of unowned land. Still ongoing All the remaining action points are agenda items.</p>	

<p>8 Report on Village Green-including Bench & picnic table & exercise equipment update</p> <p>The new bench and picnic table have been installed. It was expected that they would both be on a concrete float, but only the legs have been concreted in. Arun DC will have to be careful of weeds and nettles growing underneath.</p> <p>The four new exercise machines will shortly be installed.</p> <p>It was noted that Arun DC still owes a bench from when a bench was demolished in a car accident.</p> <p>AP60- the Assistant Clerk will look at the file</p> <p>Boat for entrance</p> <p>We have now sourced a boat and this has been collected by Karl Washer who is renovating it. We had to obtain formal agreement from Arun DC; this has been granted. It was noted that the design is to sit the boat on shingle. It was agreed that this is a safety concern. It was agreed that Carl Smith from Arun DC will be asked for his advice. The Assistant Clerk will liaise with Karl Washer to see if shingle can be set into concrete so that it is not loose.</p> <p>AP61- the Assistant Clerk will speak to Karl.</p> <p>The Guides were asked if they would be willing to plant and maintain the boat and they have agreed.</p> <p>Acknowledgement board refurbishment</p> <p>A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t B o a r d Refurbishment- the existing board has weathered badly and it needs updating. It was agreed to update the board with the current logos around the edge and update the wording. Cllr Mines will formulate the wording and once it is agreed the sign can be ordered. The Guides logo will be included.</p> <p>AP62- Assistant Clerk & Cllr Mines to action</p> <p>Cycle rack refurbishment/ replacement</p> <p>It was agreed that new racks are needed, but the exact location needs to be agreed.</p> <p>The type of surface was discussed.</p>	<p>FC</p> <p>FC</p> <p>GM/FC</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM</p>
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**9 Report on Dog Fouling and Litter
Dog Fouling**

This remains a problem and a constant source of complaints. Arun DC is trialling a scheme with a Hampshire firm at the moment. The firm will patrol and issue fines to those violating the law. It was noted that problem with full poo bags being thrown in hedges or hung on trees is not as bad.

It was noted that there are always lots of dogs on the beach. It is not known if this is because there are restrictions in other areas so dog owners come to Ferring to exercise their dogs.

It was also noted that, at certain times, large numbers of horses are being exercised on the beach. This is the information from the Arun DC website:-

Horses are not permitted on the beaches of Arun between 10am and 6pm on any day between 1st May and 30th September. It is also not permissible to break in or race any animal in such a manner that may cause danger or annoyance to anyone else using the beach. If you do wish to ride on the beaches outside of these times, please be aware that the shingle sea defenses may make access difficult.

Litter Bins

The new litter bin has now been fitted by the bus stop on the A259 near Asda. Thanks to Arun DC.

<p>1 0</p>	<p>Report on Patterson’s Walk, Warren Pond, Sea Lane, the Pantiles, Wild Flower beds and footpaths</p> <p>Patterson’s Walk The extension to Patterson’s Walk is progressing slowly. Various organisations have had to be consulted. Ferring Retirement Club kindly agreed to apply to WSCC for a grant to carry out the project; this has now been granted. WSCC have now queried the width of the path, so the matter is ongoing. It was noted that the next phase is to plan a boardwalk from the end of Patterson’s Walk, past the Bluebird and onto to Kingston Gorse. There is a successful boardwalk at Shoreham and we can use this as an example. It will be an expensive project, but we may be able to run a ‘Buy a plank’ scheme. It was noted that the damaged benches in Patterson’s Walk have had their slats replaced. One of the benches near the pill box needs repair as the concrete support is breaking. AP67- Assistant Clerk to report to Arun DC</p> <p>Warren Pond A date needs to be agreed for the annual pond clear. Ferring PC will again pay for the skip and the Conservation Group will arrange for volunteers to do the work. It was noted that it is very overgrown this year due to the weather. Cllr Blackburn undertakes the Risk Assessment for the pond, but has noted that it is difficult to see due the large amount of vegetation growth. It was noted that clearance may need to be done twice a year, but this will involve more volunteers and another skip. Cllr Mines will agree a date with the Conservation Group. AP68- Cllr Mines to action The open trellis panel looks attractive; and more may be installed as and when required.</p> <p>Sea Lane Sea Lane Gateway-this project is being discussed with WSCC as the gateway will be on their land. WSCC favour composite plastic which will cope well with the weather conditions.</p>	<p>FC</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM</p> <p>FC</p>
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1 **Tree Matters**

1 *Report by Simon Adams and Cllr Maura Blackburn*

- The Chairman noted that a Tree Policy (attached) has been drafted. It was agreed that the document should include that permissions should be sought from landowners prior to planting. The policy was then AGREED.
It was noted that the FRSA deal with drains as well as the road surface. Many drains are old and fragile, so tree roots may damage them and leaves could block the grills. The FRSA are currently organising a second round of drain cleaning and flushing and this will cost over forty thousand pounds. Also, a road sweep around the village costs about £1200, so care must be taken when deciding the location of any new trees. It was noted that the tree planting program will be limited to small numbers of trees and consultation will take place regarding the proposed location to plant so that it is acceptable to all.
- The Conservation Group intend to survey the village for trees that should be protected with a TPO and submit this list to Arun DC.
- We have had a request to plant a tree on the verge of the A259 as vehicles are driving over/ parking on the verge. This was discussed at the May meeting and it was agreed that this is a WSCC issue. The matter was again discussed at Full Council and referred back to this Committee. It was AGREED that planting trees to prevent traffic violations is not our remit, but a WSSCC matter. We will support WSSCC if they want to plant trees.
- The Queens tree is struggling, so Simon is considering some type of protection for it.

1 2	<p>Conservation Group Update <i>Patricia Hall gave the report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The herb bed has been cut back to make it look neat. All medicinal herbs have been removed, so now it will be limited to small culinary herbs.• The trees on the Rife have benefited from the recent rain.• The Community orchard is also doing well thanks to the rain and there is a crop of apples, plums and pears.• The Sea Lane boat planter was looking messy, but has now been weeded. The plants are now growing and will look better next year.• There will be a beach clean on 16 Sept and will include Beach Watch where all types of litter collected are counted and the results recorded nationally.• The east bank of the Rife has been cut and at the correct time of year for the butterflies. Unfortunately the recent rain has not helped the butterflies. It was noted that the Rife has been dredged.• Highdown Reservoir is usually covered in orchids, but the Water Authority has mown the area twice so there are now no orchids. The Water Authority has been informed of this matter.	
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<p>1 3</p>	<p>FRSA <i>Richard Potton gave the report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The FRSA has been carrying out work to roads such as Beehive Lane. Telgrath Road will be resurfaced very soon. Some of the problems on the roads are because of developers working in the roads. The FRSA makes a point of contacting the developers and asking them to put the roads back to the original standard.• Drainage work costing £41k was carried out earlier this year and the second phase costing £45.5k will begin later in the year.• A survey of the residents of Beehive Lane was carried out regarding speeding in the lane and they have agreed to have 'slow' signs painted on the road. This will cost £1,000. If successful, these signs may be extended to other roads.• The gardens are looking good, but Ocean Drive is overcrowded and will be thinned.• The subscriptions will be increasing from £65 to £70.	
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1 4	<p>Parish Clerk report including Financial Report</p> <p>Environment Committee Budget £18050</p> <p>Spent £</p> <p>Ferring Nurseries 3035</p> <p>Karl Washer 300</p> <p>Ferring Country Centre 275</p> <p>Enhancement (bench/ picnic table) 728</p> <p>Total 4338 TO SPEND £13712</p>	
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<p>1 5</p>	<p>New Projects These are projects which have previously been suggested and their progress. Outdoor facilities Petanque area e.g. Village Green or beach front ? Adult gym equipment on the Village Green Soon to be installed Improve cycle provision Ongoing discussions Warren Pond More 'open fencing' along Florida Road/Jersey Road One panel installed Viewing platform over pond ? Central pond island for ducks completed Pattersons walk Continue west end of existing 'tarmac' path to Blue Bird car park WSCC grant awarded Continue west end of existing path with a boardwalk on the shingle to Kingston Gorse Ongoing discussions; large grant needed Other areas Queens 90th commemorative stone and tree completed Move bench on Rife Way closer to path completed Refurbishment of information Boards on the Rife and Pattersons Walk (with FCG) completed Establishment of a village orchard (with FCG) completed Re-juvenation of entrance to Village Green e.g. boat Soon to be installed Re-juvenation/renovation of Pantiles area Transfer in process Sea Lane: Gateway sign + tree Ongoing discussions</p>	
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1 6	Items for Next Agenda & Items for Information Only <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Richard Potton will no longer represent the FRSA at these meeting, David Hammond will take over. Richard was thanked for his valuable contribution.• A suggestion was made that all planning applications should include a condition that if the road surface is damaged during building work the surface should be reinstated. Cllr Abbott who is Chair of Planning took note of this suggestion.• Cllr Abbott gave a formal vote of thanks to Cllr Mines and the Assistant Clerk for all the work that they have done recently.• The lane leading to the railway crossing pedestrian crossing is looking untidy. Cllr Horne will provide photos.	
1 7	Date of Next Meeting – 9 Nov 2017	

Signed.....

Date.....

TREE PLANTING POLICY

Introduction

There can be little doubt that trees make a substantial and valuable contribution to the character of our village.

- **There are well documented social, economic and environmental benefits that trees bring. Trees contribute to our health and mental well-being, with open spaces containing trees for shade and recreation.**
- **Trees and vegetation play an important role in influencing air quality, limiting pollutants and removing carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas associated with climate change. Therefore, with the rise in road traffic, trees are very desirable along roads and streets and at the level crossing where car engines are left running. This is beneficial to everyone, especially children, older people and those who have respiratory problems like asthma.**
- **The trees in our gardens and on our roadside grass verges give character to individual streets and homes.**
- **They provide a valuable habitat for wildlife, which is clearly so important for Ferring residents as demonstrated by the large membership of the Ferring Conservation Group.**

However, new housing development can lead to a decrease in tree numbers as we have seen recently in various parts of the village. Of course, pests and diseases, installation of underground services and cables all cause individual problems which add to the problem of maintaining tree numbers. A number of significant trees in the village have been cut down and this has raised some concern amongst residents.

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Aims and objectives

The Parish Council has direct responsibility only for the trees on parish council owned land e.g. some of the trees on the Village Green frontage to Ferring Street, Warren Pond and the Pantiles. Those trees situated in the conservation area and also those with Tree Preservation orders on them are already protected by Arun DC.

However, working with Arun District Council, West Sussex County Council, Ferring Conservation Group and individual landowners our main aims are to:

- 1. Protect/maintain existing trees where possible by suitable tree management.**
- 2. Plant replacement trees as existing trees get old, diseased etc.**
- 3. Increase the numbers of trees where possible, and with agreement of relevant interested bodies & landowners, by planting new trees in areas that can have maximum visual impact and environmental benefits**
 - **bottom of Sea Lane/ around the electricity pylon on the Village Green**
 - **along the principal roads through the village such as Sea Lane, Ferring Street, Langbury Lane**
 - **in the more residential areas along grass verges etc.**
 - **in our open spaces such as the Village Green, Glebelands, Little Twitten, along the Rife**
 - **in the other open areas within the village**
- 4. Support Tree Preservation Orders where trees are judged to make a significant contribution to the visual amenity of the locality.**

These aims can hopefully be achieved as the budget allows and also by encouraging sponsorship/donations from landowners/residents.