

# FERRING PARISH COUNCIL

## Environment, Footpaths and Amenities Committee (Advisory Powers)

Report on the meeting of the above Committee  
held at 19.30 hours on Thursday 10th November 2016 at the Parish Office

<b>Present</b>	Councillors	Geoff Mines (Chair)
		Maura Blackburn
		Stephen Abbott
		Ruth Sims
	Tree Warden	Simon Adams
	FRSA	Richard Potton
	Conservation Group	Patricia Hall
	Assistant Parish Clerk (APC)	Freda Collins

1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Carole Robertson	
2	<b>Declarations of Interests</b> None	
3	<b>Remit of the Committee</b> The draft remit was discussed at the last meeting, amendments were made and the revised draft circulated to all Committee members. This was discussed and AGREED.	
4	<b>Public Question Time</b> None	
5	<b>Minutes of last meeting</b> The minutes of 11 August 2016 had been circulated. They were approved and signed by the Chairman.	

6 **Matters arising from previous minutes**

- AP10-APC to redraft remit and circulate. Done
- AP11- APC to contact Karl Washer about new boat for village green. Done
- AP12-APC to ask for canopy lift quote for oak on green. Done-work carried out by Bushwhackers
- AP13- bench for green, contact ADC. PC emailed twice.
- AP14- skip for Warren Pond clean up. APC ordered 4 yard skip. Clean up day went ahead and was well attended with about 20 people.
- AP15- seat for bus shelter Langbury Lane. Done
- AP16- Dog poo bag holder at Patterson's Walk needs refilling. APC Arun DC contacted and dealing. Arun DC Dog Patrol Officer reports that they will be removing the holder soon as it is proving too expensive. She has a few more bags and will refill next week.
- AP17- relocation of litter bin APC contacted Arun DC. A Street Scene Officer, Bill D'Alson, from the Cleansing Department at Arun DC has the various litter bin problems in hand and reports:-  
A new litter bin to be fitted adjacent to the bus stop on the A259 west of the ASDA entrance. This will be fitted and serviced FOC by ADC as soon as all the roadworks are finished.
- AP18- relocation of litter bin APC contacted Arun DC
- AP19- hedge overgrown at side of Sea Lane. APC contacted WSCC Rights of Way Ranger, Katrina Harper who reports that generally, West Sussex Public Rights of Way are responsible for public footpaths but some footpaths also carry highway status (this is a higher status) and the path on the eastern side of Sea Lane, FP3092, is one of these as it falls within the highway boundary. The overgrown hedge issue has been reported to highways and as side vegetation is a landowners responsibility it is likely that they will contact the adjoining landowner to ask for the overgrowth to be cut back.  
The link to report issues on the highway is :-  
<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/>
- AP20- APC to contact WSCC re grass cutting Sea Lane. Done-the reply from WSCC was that this area will be cut in Cut 4 which will take place in August.
- AP21 – Patricia Hall to enquire about yellow rattle. Patricia reported that the person who promoted wildflowers at Arun DC has now left.
- AP22- Health & Safety issue about verge in Beehive Lane. Sent to Full Council. Nadine in contact with Arun DC Compliance Team who are dealing.
- AP23- Check if replacement tree planted at Scotch Dyke. APC sent details of the planning application to the Chairman.
- AP24- List of planning applications where tree has to be planted. APC compiled list and sent to Chairman.
- AP25- quote to fell ash at the Pantiles. Parish Clerk contacted owner of convenience store re ownership of land. He cannot meet with the Parish Clerk and Chair of Environment until Dec.
- AP26- FPC to pay for wildflower seeds .Went to Finance- cost questioned. Cllr Mines spoke to Carl Smith at Arun DC who

7	<p><b>Footpath and Public Space Maintenance Programme 2016 – 2017 and other Village maintenance matters</b></p> <p><u>a. Village Green</u>  The trees on the frontage of Ferring Street will be pruned to prevent them overhanging the street and obscuring the streetlights at the end of November ready for the Christmas lights. Cllr Mines has made enquiries of Arun DC about which trees are theirs and which are ours and has been given a map. It was noted that the oak tree at the corner of the Green which was recently pruned still has low branches and some dead branches. It was agreed that, prior to asking the tree surgeons to carry out any work, we ask Simon Adams to review the specification. Simon will then assess the quality of the work prior to the invoice being paid.</p> <p><b>Action 27: Simon Adams in consultation with APC</b></p> <p>It was agreed at the last meeting that the entrance to the Green needs improvement. Arun DC has agreed to clear most of the bed on the right-hand side and seed with grass as it is full of weeds. The immediate part of the bed at the entrance (first 3m) has been managed historically by FPC, although ownership is not certain. Cllr Mines is waiting for clarification from Arun DC. It was agreed to have some sort of feature at the entrance. The boat theme was favoured and we have been offered a yellow speed boat by the Sea Scouts. Cllr Mines produced a photograph of the boat. A discussion took place and it was agreed that the boat was the wrong colour, the wrong shape and did not have sufficient planting area.</p> <p><b>Action 28: The Assistant Clerk to contact the Sea Scouts.</b>  The bicycle racks may need to be moved depending what feature is chosen. Cllr Mines has obtained a quote of £600 for a wooden planter 2.4 x 1.2m. It was noted that wood needs maintenance but can be repaired. It was agreed to make enquiries for another boat.</p> <p><u>b. Warren Pond</u>  The annual clearance day was organised for Sat 15 Oct at 10.00am. Some vegetation was cut back to ensure a reasonable path. There is quite a lot of duck weed. It was noted that the pond has never been dredged, but a boat would be needed to do this. The situation will be reviewed. It was noted that the fence in Florida Road may need to be replaced in future. It needs new panels to slot into the concrete posts. It was agreed to put new panels into the budget for next year. At the moment there is ivy growing up the fence which is helping to keep the fence up. It was agreed that more ivy could be planted as it looks attractive. The fence will be reviewed after the winter.</p> <p><b>Action 29: Cllr Mines and the Conservation Group</b></p>	<p>SA/APC</p> <p>FC</p> <p>GM / Cons. Group</p>
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<p>8</p>	<p><b>Tree Matters</b>  <i>Report by Simon Adams and Cllr Maura Blackburn</i>  Simon and Patricia had a walk round the village looking at trees. A tree should be planted at Scotch Dyke to replace a felled one but this has not been done. It was agreed to ask Arun DC what is happening.</p> <p><b>Action 30: The Assistant Clerk to action</b></p> <p>It was noted that quite a few trees have been removed from the Conservation Area cottages in the old part of village by the church over the years, now just the stumps remain. Planning applications have recently been submitted to fell even more This is changing the character of the area and there seems to be no structure or emphasis on replacement. It was noted that no group monitors the trees in the Conservation Area. A list of planning applications for tree works has been compiled in order to check that replacement trees have been planted within the 2 year time limit. It is known that work has been carried out without the necessary permission as it seems that some residents do not realise that they need permission to carry out tree works in a Conservation Area. It was suggested that Simon and Cllr Mines should write to Arun DC about the changing nature of the area and suggest that a letter be sent to residents to remind them of the rules of living in a Conservation Area</p> <p><b>Action 31: Simon Adams &amp; Cllr Mines to action</b></p> <p>It was noted that there are areas where new trees could be planted such as a flowering cherry on the grassy area of the corner of Church Lane/Greystoke Road.</p> <p><b>Action 32: Simon to compile a list of areas where new trees could be planted.</b></p>	<p>FC</p> <p>SA &amp; GM</p> <p>SA</p>
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<p>9</p>	<p><b>Conservation Group Update</b>  <i>Patricia Hall gave the report.</i></p> <p>The Community Orchard has been strimmed by Arun DC. Arun DC has agreed to put extra compost around the trees.</p> <p>The new boat planter in Sea Lane has been planted with plug plants which will live in shingle. Unfortunately, some of the old compost was re-used and this must have been full of grass seed, so the boat took 2 hours to weed recently.</p> <p>Last Saturday the Group tried digging the ponds on the west side of Rife as the ponds dug previously were too shallow and had silted up. Unfortunately the ground was too hard to dig. A digger has been requested from the Environment Agency, but they will not provide one. The group will try to get more help from the Environment Agency.</p> <p>On the 19<sup>th</sup> November the Group will trim the trees along the Rife. Two stonechats were recently seen hopping from tree to tree. Also seen on the Rife have been two Kingfishers, two Teals, two Wagtails and some egrets.</p> <p>It was noted that the dogwoods on the Village Green look as though they have been smashed. They will have to be left for now, but can be cut back in Spring.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p><b>FRSA</b>  <i>Richard Potton gave the report.</i></p> <p>The white lines in lower Ferringham Lane and the no-entry sign have been reinstated.</p> <p>The parking has been regularised in parts of Ocean Drive by painting echelon parking bays. Other shops in the area have now requested them.</p> <p>The broken pipe at the bottom of Sea Lane which has remained damaged for 6 years will be mended as part of Operation Outfall.</p>	

11 **Parish Clerk report including Financial Report**

**Finance Report**

It has been decided by Full Council that each Committee should review their finances at each meeting.

Environment Committee Remaining Budget  
**£21.5k**

Environment Committee consisting of:-

Ferring Nurseries	£5.5k
Karl Washer	£2.5k
Enhancement	£7.5
Contingency	£0.5
Toilets (Arun DC)	£5k
Dog faeces Collection	£0.5

There is still money left in the budget for projects. It was agreed to pursue the following projects:

- a. Village Green feature
- b. Extra Tree planting- Simon will compile a list of places where trees could be planted and do costings.
- c. Bus shelter refurbishment
- d. Bench on Ferring Street- the current bench is of poor quality and could be replaced.

i. Oak Tree- a complaint was received about the oak tree in Glen Gardens looking untidy with weeds around the base and protruding tree roots. This tree was planted in 1977 as part of the Queens Silver Jubilee celebrations and is looked after by Ferring Nurseries for the Parish Council. It was noted that the weeds have been dealt with and the roots are not a problem.

ii. Allotments- Ferring Parish Council currently has 11 allotment plots; which are divided into half and quarter plots. Cllr Mines recently inspected the plots and wrote a report on the condition. The annual rental is currently £15 per half plot and £10 per quarter plot. The rent has not been reviewed for some years. The APC provided information about the allotment rental charges from other Parish Councils. It was AGREED to recommend to the Council an increase of the Ferring charges to £20 per half plot and £12 per quarter plot.

**Action 33: The Clerk to put to Finance and full Council.**

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12	<p><b>Project Updates</b>  <i>Report by Cllr Mines</i></p> <p>a. <u>Meeting Arun DC</u>- Cllr Mines had a meeting with Carl Smith of Arun DC who has arranged for the soil and seed to be done in the Village Green, the shrubs opposite the Coop by the notice board to be removed as requested and the Tamarisk Hedge at Patterson's Walk to be trimmed.</p> <p>b. <u>Patterson's Walk</u>  Already dealt with</p>	
13	<p><b>Items for Next Agenda &amp; Items for Information Only</b></p> <p>It was noted that on footpath 2113 which runs between Onslow Drive and Langbury Lane trees and shrubs have been cut down. It is not known who owns the land but on the path is an electricity substation and a telephone mast. Litter has been revealed in the remaining undergrowth and there are lots of wood chips from the felled trees. It needs a litter pick to discourage dumping of waste. The Conservation Group will look at this problem.</p> <p>It was noted that some footpaths such as Brook Lane, Ferringham Way, and Clover Way need more aggregate. This will be investigated further.</p>	
14	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting – To Be Arranged</b></p>	