

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 11 August 2016 at the Parish Office**

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

1	<p>Apologies for Absence None</p>	
2	<p>Election of Chairman Carole Robertson proposed Geoff Mines for Chairman. Seconded by Maura Blackburn. AGREED unanimously. Cllr Mines was congratulated.</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of Interests None</p>	
4	<p>Remit of the Committee The draft remit had been circulated to all Committee members. The opening paragraph was unchanged from the previous remit. It was agreed that the second part of the remit was too specific and detailed. It was agreed that the Assistant Parish Clerk should redraft and resubmit the remit to be discussed at the next meeting Action 10: The Clerk to action.</p>	FC

5	<p>Public Question Time None</p>	
6	<p>Minutes of last meeting The minutes of 12 May 2016 had been circulated and were approved.</p>	
7	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes <i>AP1-notify the Police about the rough sleeper in the Rife Way bus shelter. Done</i> <i>AP2- new contact at Arun DC. Cllr Mines and the Assistant Clerk have had a meeting with the new Arun DC Officer, Karl Smith. He was very helpful, but will be constrained by budget.</i> <i>AP3-to obtain a quote from Karl Washer about the mould on the village sign and the Goring Way bus shelter. Karl has cleaned the village sign and given a quote for the bus shelter refurbishment.</i> <i>AP4- to check the wildflower seeds have been sown. Seeds were sown in Little Twittens and it looks wonderful.</i> <i>AP5- the Assistant Clerk to the Hearing Centre about the pothole in the road. Two letters have been sent from the Parish Office to the Centre, so they aware of their responsibility and made arrangements for the work to be carried out. Concrete has been put into the hole in the road.</i> <i>AP6- produce 'Clean for Queen' flyer. It was decided not to pursue this as asking the shop owners to clean was not the best way to tackle the litter problem.</i> <i>AP7- extra Dog Warden patrols if agreed by the Full Council. The extra funding for extra patrols was agreed at Full Council and the extra patrols have been arranged.</i> <i>AP8- entrance to the village green. Agenda item</i> <i>AP9- the Queen's Birthday commemoration. Done- turfing of the grass around the stone will be discussed.</i></p>	

<p>8</p>	<p>Footpath and Public Space Maintenance Programme 2016 – 2017 and other Village maintenance matters</p> <p><u>a. Village Green</u></p> <p>Cllr Mines has had a meeting with Karl Smith of Arun DC about the quality of the grass cutting on the green. Karl promised to review this. They also discussed the entrance to the green and the bed on the right-hand side. The immediate part of the bed at the entrance (first 3m) is managed by FPC, but the rest is maintained by Arun DC. The bed has never been successful although it has been planted with shrubs and bulbs, so Karl will review removing the weeds and turfing; subject to costing and finance. FPC will improve their part of the bed. It was agreed to keep the boat theme as we have been offered various boats. It was agreed to remove the weeds and put shingle on the bed and then place a boat which will be planted. Maintenance of the plants in the boat can be included in the Ferring Nurseries contract.</p> <p>Action11: The Assistant Clerk to contact Karl Washer.</p> <p>We have been advised that the canopy should be lifted on the large oak tree in Rife Way.</p> <p>Action12: The Assistant Clerk to obtain a quote for the work.</p> <p>We have had requests for more seating on the village green by the new play equipment. Arun DC owes us a bench as they removed a broken bench when the bus shelter and bench was damaged by a car. The Clerk has contacted Arun DC about this matter and is awaiting a reply.</p> <p>Action 13:The Assistant Clerk to pursue this matter</p> <p>It was noted that Tree Surgeons were seen cutting trees on the green last week, so it presumed they were employed by Arun DC.</p> <p><u>b. Warren Pond</u></p> <p>Cllr Mines has spoken to David Bettiss and the annual clearance day has been agreed as Sat 15 Oct at 10.00am</p> <p>Action 14:The Assistant Clerk to organise a small skip</p> <p>Cllr Blackburn has carried out another Risk Assessment. The vegetation has regrown, the water is very green and there are 12 ducks. It was noted that an offer of fish for the pond was received. As there are newts in the pond, it is not advisable to add fish.</p> <p><u>c. Bus shelters</u></p> <p>The seat collapsed in the shelter in Rife Way as the screws used in the construction were too short. Karl Washer has repaired this at a cost of £120.</p> <p>The metal shelter in Sea Lane/Goring Way needs refurbishing and rustproofing and Karl Washer has quoted £185. It was noted that these shelters are not designed to be renovated.</p> <p>The shelter in Langbury Lane does not have a seat. There is a difference of opinion as to whether a seat is desirable. It was agreed to go ahead with the project. Karl Washer has quoted £90.</p> <p>Action 15: Both quotes to go to Finance</p>	<p>FC</p> <p>FC</p> <p>FC</p> <p>FC</p> <p>FC</p> <p>FC</p>
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9	<p>Electricity Pylon on the Village Green</p> <p>Complaints have been received that it is inappropriate to have an electricity pylon on the green as this is an area where children play. It is known that a pylon was removed in Angmering.</p> <p>This matter was raised about 10 years but edf will not do it as removal of a pylon costs millions of pounds. Edf also states that there is no hard evidence to support that playing under a pylon for a short time will cause any physical harm. It was agreed not to pursue this matter.</p>	
10	<p>Tree Matters</p> <p><i>Report by Simon Adams and Cllr Maura Blackburn</i></p> <p>Cllr Blackburn has compiled a file of Ferring TPO's which has been passed to the Assistant Clerk. Arun DC has a map of all TPO's but it is unspecific. We now have all the information that we can gather.</p> <p>Simon Adams reported that the TPO tree at Hangleton Grange will have to be removed, but a condition has been imposed to replace it. A tree should be planted at Scotch Dyke to replace a felled one. This should be checked at Arun DC.</p> <p>Action 23: The Assistant Clerk to action</p> <p>It was noted that quite a few trees have been removed from the Conservation Area cottages over the years. This is changing the character of the area. It was noted that no group monitors the trees in the Conservation Area. It was agreed to compile a list of planning applications for tree works and to check that replacement trees have been planted within the 2 year time limit.</p> <p>Action 24: The Assistant Clerk to action.</p> <p>It was agreed that Patricia, Simon and Cllr Blackburn will walk around the Conservation area to look at the trees and take photos where appropriate.</p> <p>A large branch fell from the tree in the Pantiles recently. Although the tree is on land owned by the owner of the Convenience Store, there is a long-standing agreement with the owner that FPC maintains the land so that it can be used by the public. A quote for the work has been obtained from Bushwhackers for £380 to cut back. It was agreed to find out from Bushwhackers what kind of ash it is as it may be more prudent to fell the tree and replace it. If it is a North American ash it may be possible to safely prune it.</p> <p>Action 25: The Assistant Clerk to action</p>	<p>FC</p> <p>FC</p> <p>FC</p>

<p>11</p>	<p>Conservation Group Update <i>Patricia Hall gave the report.</i></p> <p>The Community Orchard is now looking good and a plaque has been erected. John Coot has been giving advice and is helping to look after the trees.</p> <p>The trees on the Rife are doing well and are producing fruit. The mountain ash on the green are looking good. The Weeping Willow planted on the Rife in memory of Patricia's husband is doing well.</p> <p>The Ferring Country Centre accidentally strimmed all the trees planted in the paddocks. So 150 willow cuttings were planted in the spring. Plastic tags have been put around the trees and shrubs to mark them to prevent accidental strimming in the future.</p> <p>Cutting on the east bank of the Rife has been carried out by the Environment Agency. The west side has been left uncut for wildlife. It is pleasing to see that wolveroles are present in the Rife.</p> <p>The Conservation notice boards have been cleaned and renovated by Karl Washer.</p> <p>There have been three beach cleans. Flax has been grown in the Ferring/East Preston gap for the linseed. Flax is good for insects. FPC paid £160 for wildflower mix for this year. It was requested that they pay for the seeds for next year. <i>Post meeting note: the actual cost of the seeds was £288.</i></p> <p>Action 26: The Clerk to put to Finance.</p> <p>The shingle beds in Patterson's Walk have been admired and a plaque is planned. The herb bed is going strong. The Conservation Group has been awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Services.</p>	<p>NP</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>FRSA <i>Richard Potton gave the report.</i></p> <p>The dead tree from the Grove Gardens site has gone and will be replaced by a Rowan tree in the Autumn. Langbury Lane bed has been weeded. The artichokes have gone from Ocean Drive It was noted that Ferring is fortunate to have such good groups working to make the village look good.</p>	

13	<p>Parish Clerk report including Financial Report</p> <p>a. Parish Clerk No report</p> <p>b. Finance Report It has been decided by Full Council that each Committee should review their finances at each meeting.</p> <p>Environment Committee Budget £27k</p> <p>Environment Committee Fixed Costs:-</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Ferring Nurseries</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-left: 20px;">£9k</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Karl Washer</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-left: 20px;">£4k</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Toilets (Arun DC)</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-left: 20px;">£5k</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Dog faeces Collection</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-left: 20px;">£400</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">TOTAL</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£19k</td> </tr> </table> <p>So remainder of £8k is for tree maintenance, projects, unexpected costs. Various projects suggested in the past have been:- Bus shelters, cycling path, Warren Pond, Patterson’s Walk, notice boards, renovation of Pantiles. Some of these have been done and some are on-going projects. The Committee was asked to suggest other projects such as adult exercise machines on the village green.</p>	Ferring Nurseries	£9k		Karl Washer	£4k		Toilets (Arun DC)	£5k		Dog faeces Collection	£400		TOTAL		£19k	
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14	<p>Project Updates <i>Report by Cllr Mines</i></p> <p>a. Cllr Mines has had a meeting with the owner of the Bluebird café who is trying to acquire land on the shingle. Cllr Mines would like to improve access for the disabled and people with buggies across the short distance from the end of Patterson’s Walk to the car par which is currently shingle. Cllr Mines has brushed the shingle away to provide a hard surface for wheels to run across, but the shingle returns. Karl Smith from Arun DC suggested using a barrier of railway sleepers, but the Environment Agency need access to the beach, so the sleepers cannot be a barrier to this. Cllr Mines has also had a meeting with Natural England who want to create a footpath around the British coast.</p> <p>b. It was noted that Arun DC has section 106 money available for projects. If we can present all the necessary information including a public consultation on a connection from Patterson’s Walk to the carpark and a boardwalk over the shingle, Arun DC may agree to fund the project with s106 money.</p> <p>c. It was noted that requests have been received for a north/south footpath. Some of the path will have to cross private land. The FRSA has contacted residents, some will assist, some will not. This is a matter for the Highways Committee.</p>																
15	<p>Items for Next Agenda & Items for Information Only None</p>																

16	Date of Next Meeting Thursday 10 Nov 2016	
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