

FERRING PARISH COUNCIL

Environment Committee (Advisory Powers)

**Report on the meeting of the above Committee
held at 19.30 hours on Thursday 4 May 2017 at the Parish Office**

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

1	Apologies for Absence Stephen Abbott	
2	Declarations of Interests None	
3	Public Question Time None	
4	Minutes of last meeting The minutes of 9 February 2017 had been circulated. They were approved and signed by the Chairman.	

<p>5</p>	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP37-<i>proposed bus shelter Langbury Lane</i> This project has not been pursued as the only possible siting of the shelter would have made it impossible to see the bus coming. • AP40- <i>land at the Pantiles</i>. Richard Potton will get details • AP44- <i>drain cleaning</i> .This was not pursued. • AP45-<i>work to Patterson’s Walk</i>. A grant was applied for from the West Sussex Community Initiative Fund by the Ferring Retirement Club on behalf of the FPC. It was noted that the grant will be decide at the next JEAAC meeting in June. • AP46- <i>damaged bench on Patterson’s Walk</i> Cllr Abbott to report- not yet done. <p>All other action points are agenda items</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Maintenance Programme 2017-2018</p> <p>i. Ferring Nurseries The contract was discussed and it was agreed to renew for another year.</p> <p>ii. Ferring Country Centre It was noted that the summer floral display last year was disappointing and that it had been unsatisfactory previously. It was agreed to write to the Centre so that they are aware and ask for a better display; geraniums were suggested.</p> <p>iii. Karl Washer It was agreed to renew for another year.</p> <p>Action 47: The Assistant Parish Clerk to write to renew all contracts</p>	<p>FC</p>

<p>7</p>	<p>Project Updates & Other Village Maintenance</p> <p>i. Village Green</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed sponsorship for benches- the office has been approached about residents purchasing memorial benches for loved ones. Arun DC no longer operate such a scheme. It was agreed to find out from Arun DC what information we need if we wanted to promote such a scheme and produce information for residents. <p>Action 48: The Assistant Parish Clerk to action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Chemical weedkiller- Arun DC has requested that they be allowed to use chemical weedkiller around posts and trees on the Green. It was agreed that strimmers cause damage, but that weedkiller is not a good idea around trees. The weedkiller may be used for posts. <p>Action 49: The Assistant Parish Clerk to contact Arun DC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bench & picnic table-various designs and materials have been researched, but it was agreed to go with the plastic benches favoured by Arun DC <p>Action 50: Cllr Mines to action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise Equipment-this project is being organised by the CAF Committee. Four different pieces in bright colours will be installed. Boat for entrance- we have received the offer of a boat from a resident. Siting/renovation and a base will cost £400. The Guides have been asked if they would be willing to plant and maintain the boat and they have agreed. We are now waiting permission from Arun DC to site the boat as it will be on their land. <p>Action 51: Cllr Mines to request support from Arun DC Councillor</p> <p>A resident has complained that the cycle racks get muddy as they are situated on grass. It was suggested that the racks could be relocated to the solid surface of the old recycling area.</p> <p>Action 52: Cllr Mines to action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willow Arch-it was suggested that, if a boat could not be located to site at the entrance to the Green, the entrance could be improved with a willow arch. We now have the offer of a boat, so the arch was suggested for the play area. It was agreed that a willow arch requires a great deal of maintenance so would not be a good idea for the entrance to the play area. Trees around Pylon- the owners of the pylon, UK Power Networks , will allow low planting around the pylon provided it is at least 2m away . Suggestions were made for suitable planting, but it was agreed to arrange a site visit with Maura Blackburn, Ruth Simms, Geoff Mines and Patricia Hall. <p>Action 53: Cllr Mines to arrange site visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgement Board 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. <p>Action 54: Cllr Mines & Assistant Parish Clerk to action</p>	<p>FC</p> <p>FC</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM & FC</p>
	<p>ii. Warren Pond</p> <p>An open trellis panel has been installed and looks attractive. It was agreed not to install anymore open panels as having the pond too</p>	

<p>8</p>	<p>Tree Matters <i>Report by Simon Adams and Cllr Maura Blackburn</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that there have been a couple of planning applications involving trees, and that there have been some refusals for work on trees. • There have been requests for trees in verges from residents. It was agreed that we do not supply trees on request as verges belong to WSCC or the FRSA. • It was noted that if FPC wants to plant more trees in the village verges we will have to get permission from WSCC . • We have had a request to plant a tree on the verge of the A259 as vehicles are driving over/parking on the verge. It was agreed that this is a WSCC matter. <p>Action 57: Assistant Parish Clerk to contact WSCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia has written an article for the Conservation Group magazine which requests sponsorship for tree planting or encourages residents to plant trees. • It was noted that ancient woodland could get equal protection to green belts under the Governments new Housing White Paper. Aged or veteran trees and ancient woodland are on the list of 'strong reasons to restrict development'. Currently, trees can be cut down if the need for development 'clearly outweighs' their loss. • It was noted that the large willow in Ferringham Lane has had major work as the tree was split. It should grow again. 	
<p>9</p>	<p>Conservation Group Update <i>Patricia Hall gave the report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community orchard is very dry, but all the trees have blossomed. • The trees on the Rife are looking good • The Environment Agency has begun to tidy up the bottom of the Rife. • The flytipping at the bottom of Letchworth Close has been cleared. • Trees have been felled in Sea Lane, but they were not protected by TPO's. There is Planning Permission for one replacement house. • FPC will fund the material to improve the footpaths down to the Rife. • There are nettles all the way down Sea Lane footpath <p>Action 58: Assistant Parish Clerk to inform WSCC Rights of Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Beach Clean/Rife Clean dates are May 6, Jul 8, Sept 16 all at 11.00am meeting at the Bluebird café. • The Conservation Group magazine will soon be out for distribution. • It was noted that there is a field near the carpark for the football pitches in Highdown that is covered in wildflowers. This is the best wildflower meadow in Ferring. 	<p>FC</p>

10	<p>FRSA <i>Richard Potton gave the report.</i> All the gardens are tidy; Ferring Nurseries are doing well. Clover Lane was in need of a tidy, but is now fine.</p>															
11	<p>Parish Clerk report including Financial Report</p> <p>Finance Report for year end Mar 2017</p> <p>Environment Committee Budget £28k</p> <table style="width: 100%; margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">Spent £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ferring Nurseries</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7191</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Karl Washer</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2261</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enhancement</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1593</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contingency</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toilets (Arun DC)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4990</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">16035</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It was noted that the fees for the Allotments for last year were £266.15, but expenses were £419.24. Fees have been increased for this year.</p>		Spent £	Ferring Nurseries	7191	Karl Washer	2261	Enhancement	1593	Contingency	0	Toilets (Arun DC)	4990	Total	16035	
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12	<p>Unowned Plots of Land</p> <p>We have been contacted by a resident about an unowned strip of land at the bottom of his garden. He does not want to take on the responsibility of maintenance of this land. But as the land does not belong to FPC, we do not want to have to take on responsibility either. It was noted that around the Village that are various unowned areas of land. We do not want to take on ownership unless there is a good reason, but will consider carrying out necessary works if there are issues with trees, hedging or access. Each case will be considered on its own merit.</p> <p>It was agreed to start a register of these areas of land.</p> <p>Action 59: Assistant Parish Clerk to compile list</p>	FC														
13	<p>Items for Next Agenda & Items for Information Only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that Allotments will be an agenda item on the next agenda. • It was noted that it is National Hedgehog week. Villages can apply to become a Hedgehog Friendly Village. Hedgehogs are relocated to these villages. It was suggested that the Conservation Group may want to consider this as a project. 															
14	<p>Date of Next Meeting – 10 August 2017</p>															

All minutes are draft and subject to approval at the next meeting

Signed.....

Date.....