

## FERRING PARISH COUNCIL

### Environment Committee (Advisory Powers)

**Report on the meeting of the above Committee  
held at 19.00 hours on Thursday 9 February 2017 at the Parish Office**

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

1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> None	
2	<b>Declarations of Interests</b> None	
3	<b>Public Question Time</b> None	
4	<b>Minutes of last meeting</b> The minutes of 10 November 2016 had been circulated. There was an amendment to Item 9; the words 'vegetation around the' were inserted between 'the' and 'trees'. They were then approved and signed by the Chairman.	

5	<b>Matters arising from previous minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AP27-<i>Simon Adams to inspect recent tree works</i>. Done; re-pruning approved</li><li>• AP28- <i>APC to contact Scouts regarding boat</i>. Done</li><li>• AP29- <i>Cllr Mines and Conservation Group to monitor fence at Warren pond</i>. Agenda item</li><li>• AP30-<i>APC to contact Arun DC Tree Officers regarding replacement tree at Scotch Dyke</i>. The Assistant Parish Clerk contacted Arun DC who stated that there was nothing about the matter on the website and a site inspection should be carried out. Simon will do this.</li><li>• AP31- <i>Simon Adams and Cllr Mines to write a letter to Arun DC regarding loss of trees in The Conservation Area</i>. Done- reply awaited.</li><li>• AP32- <i>Simon Adams to compile a list of areas where new trees could be planted</i>. Done and circulated</li><li>• Action 33: <i>The Clerk to put to Finance and full Council a recommended increase for allotment plots</i>. Done.</li></ul>	
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<p>6</p>	<p><b>Footpath and Public Space Maintenance Programme 2016 – 2017 and other Village maintenance matters</b></p> <p><u>i. Village Green</u>          Currently there is one bench next to the footpath, one near the zip-wire and one picnic table in the area. The Green is now better used due to the improved play equipment, so more benches are required. Arun DC tend to install recycled plastic benches. Arun DC is willing to install and maintain any benches that Ferring PC pay for. It was agreed to buy a wooden-looking bench and possibly a plastic picnic table for the play area. This proposal will need to go to the Finance Committee and Full Council.</p> <p><b>Action 34: Cllr Mines to propose the expenditure and arrange a meeting with the Arun DC Officer</b></p> <p>At the last meeting, it was agreed to have some sort of feature at the entrance to the Green. The boat theme was favoured, but it has not been possible to source a suitable boat. It was agreed to put an advert in the 'All about Ferring' asking residents if they know of a suitable boat, also to contact local Harbour Masters about this matter.</p> <p><b>Action 35: APC to contact 'All About Ferring' and Harbour Masters about a boat</b></p> <p><u>ii. Warren Pond</u>          A water main by the side of the pond burst in early January and the water level rose dramatically. There is a water outlet (as shown on the drainage plan prepared by Trevor Hill), but it does not appear to be working. The water level did not rise above the top of the pond, so there was no flooding problem.          The fencing is of concern and will need to be replaced. It was agreed to look into replacing the solid panels with some type of open trellis . This would have the advantage of allowing the pond to be seen more easily. It was agreed to obtain quotes to replace one panel with solid or trellis.</p> <p><b>Action 36: APC to contact Karl Washer about obtaining quotes for the various panels.</b>          It was noted that if a trellis panel is to be fitted that we should contact local householders to inform them about what we are doing.</p> <p><u>iii. Bus shelters</u>          The Office has received two requests from residents for new shelters at Langbury Lane and Sea Lane/Goring Way near the school.          It was agreed not to pursue the proposal for Sea Lane/Goring Way as only a few people wait at that bus stop. More people go into Worthing on the bus, so use the opposite bus stop which has a shelter.          It was agreed to research the shelter for Langbury Lane. An initial costing for a shelter with installation will be in the order of £2800.</p>	<p>GM</p> <p>FC</p> <p>FC</p> <p>FC &amp; GM</p>
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<p>7</p>	<p><b>Tree Matters</b>  <i>Report by Simon Adams and Cllr Maura Blackburn</i>                  Simon put together a tree planting plan which was circulated to all members.</p> <p><u>Greystoke Road</u>                  Betula sinensis 2 x £50 = £100                  Cornus Sibirica = £30                  Prunus Amanogawa = £40                  Paulownia = £25                  Liquidambar Styraciflua = £42.50</p> <p><u>Play Area</u>                  Prunus Matsumae-shizuka =£45</p> <p><b>Total = £282.50</b></p> <p>Other firms can supply larger specimens, but these would be more expensive. It was queried why native species have not been chosen. Simon has chosen these trees with the changing climate in mind. Other suggestions were flowering cherry and Gilda rose. It was noted that some areas for the suggested planting are privately owned and some owned by WSCC; some parts being in the Conservation Area. No decision was made on the planting.</p> <p>It was noted that the area around the pylon on the Green would benefit from planting. National Grid allows planting provided that it does not restrict motor vehicle access to the pylon for maintenance and that nothing is grown up the pylon itself. Arun DC has also agreed in principle, subject to a site meeting, and their agreement about the type of planting used. It was agreed that an evergreen which does not require too much maintenance would be suitable. Dogwood and spindleberry were suggested.</p> <p><b>Action 41: Cllr Mines to set up a meeting with Carl Smith from Arun DC, David Bettiss and Cllr Simms.</b></p> <p>It was noted that the area around the floral boat in Sea Lane is rather bleak. There used to be trees there, but they have not survived due to the exposed weather conditions. It was agreed to try some planting, but taking care to maintain sight lines around the corner. Cordyline and Sea Buckthorn were suggested. The land is owned by WSCC so permission will have to be given prior to any planting.</p> <p><b>Action 42: Simon and Patricia to research.</b></p>	<p>GM</p> <p>SA &amp; PH</p>
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<p>8</p>	<p><b>Conservation Group Update</b>  <i>Patricia Hall gave the report.</i>                  A field maple has been planted by the path in Little Twitten in memory of Joyce Cooper. Joyce left a legacy to do this and also to plant 15 field maples along the Rife.                  The Environment Agency are about to clear some ditches, David Bettiss will check on this work. The Agency has done some cutting so that the small tortoiseshell butterfly will do better this year.                  The Conservation Group has done more digging to the ponds on the west side of Rife as the ponds dug previously were too shallow and had silted up. More help is needed as the ponds are still too shallow.                  The weed screen is broken; David Bettiss will request that this is mended.                  Compost and bark chippings have been put down in the Community Orchard.                  There is a problem with dog faeces; probably caused as the grass is left long.                  It was suggested that a soft fence is erected around the trees to prevent access to dogs with a small sign asking dog owners not to leave their dog foulings.                  The Beach Clean/Rife Clean dates are Mar 18, May 6, Jul 8, Sept 16 all at 11.00am meeting at the Bluebird café. The Sept 16 clean will be combined with the big 'Beach Watch' campaign.                  It was noted that extra hardcore is required to repair footpaths between Brook Lane, Clover Lane, Ferringham Way and the Rife. Repair to footpaths has been carried out previously.  <b>Action 43: Tricia to provide contact details</b></p>	
<p>9</p>	<p><b>FRSA</b>  <i>Richard Potton gave the report.</i>                  The tree in The Grove has been replaced with a Rowan.                  All the gardens are tidy; Ferring Nurseries are doing well.                  Work has started on the drains and the gulleys which are being flushed out. It was suggested that as the FRSA have the equipment to clean the drains that WSCC may be interested in their drains being cleaned. Richard will contact Chris Headon to ask.  <b>Action 44: Richard to action</b></p>	<p>RP</p>

10	<p><b>Parish Clerk report including Financial Report</b></p> <p><b>Finance Report</b></p> <p>Environment Committee Budget <span style="float: right;"><b>£28k</b></span></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;"></th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Spent £</th> <th style="width: 20%;"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Remaining £</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Ferring Nurseries</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5k</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4k</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Karl Washer</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2k</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2k</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Enhancement</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.5</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.5k</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Contingency</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Dog faeces Collection</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>0.5</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Toilets (Arun DC)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5k</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>19.5k</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>8.5k</b></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Spent £		Remaining £			Ferring Nurseries	5k	4k	Karl Washer	2k	2k	Enhancement	1.5		7.5k			Contingency	0	0.5	Dog faeces Collection	0		0.5			Toilets (Arun DC)	0	5k	<b>19.5k</b>	<b>8.5k</b>		
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<p>11</p>	<p><b>Project Updates</b>  <i>Report by Cllr Mines</i>  <u>Patterson's Walk</u>                  At the moment access from the west end of Patterson's Walk into The Strand car park is over a shingle area so is difficult for wheelchair users, buggies and people with mobility difficulties. Cllrs Mines and Headon have been progressing a concrete extension to the end of Patterson's Walk. Cllr Mines has been in contact with the Environment Agency, Arun DC and the owner of the Bluebird café. We are waiting on formal permission in writing from the owner of the Bluebird café. It was noted that access to the Walk may not meet current disability standards under the Equalities Act, so it may be that a grant can be obtained for the work. Arun DC has a Wellbeing initiative and may award grants. WSCC have a Community Initiative Scheme and may provide finance for this project.</p> <p><b>Action 45: The Assistant Clerk to research</b></p> <p>footpath will have – where part of the way. This complete work</p> <p>Natural England is in the process of arranging for a coastal around the whole of the English coast. For the first time people the right of access around all of the open coast. This includes appropriate – any land, other than the trail itself, which forms coastal margin and which has public rights of access along the is known as 'spreading room'. Natural England expects to on the England Coast Path in 2020. It was hoped that Natural England would finance a boardwalk over the shingle to facilitate the passage of wheelchairs, but their remit is just to arrange a path. It was noted that some of the benches belonging to Arun DC on Patterson's Walk are in a state of disrepair.</p> <p><b>Action 46: Cllr Abbott to inform Arun DC</b></p>	<p>FC</p> <p>SA</p>
<p>12</p>	<p><b>Items for Next Agenda &amp; Items for Information Only</b>                  None</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting – 4 May 2017</b></p>	