

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 12 May 2016 at the Parish Office

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

Before the meeting started Cllr Mines pointed out that this was now a Committee with advisory powers.

1	Apologies for Absence There were apologies received from Councillors Ruth Sims.	
2	Declarations of Interest There were none.	
3	Public Question Time There were no members of the public present.	
4	Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting (18 Feb 2016) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A new specification has been received from Ferring Nurseries to reflect the new arrangement with the FRSA. b. The leaking tap at the allotment has been fixed by Karl Washer. c. The Arun DC website interactive map may reflect any TPO's registered after 2007. For information about TPO's prior to that time, Arun DC needs to be contacted directly. The former Clerk produced a list of Ferring TPO's which has now been passed to Cllr Blackburn for updating. Patricia Hall has a more current list which was loaned to Cllr Blackburn. d. Karl Washer is to repair the notice boards at the Rife. 	
5	Footpath and Public Space Maintenance Programme 2016 – 2017 and other Village maintenance matters <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. FPC has three major contracts:- Ferring Nurseries- for flower beds etc, the contract has recently been amended. Karl Washer- regular maintenance programme including bus shelters. It was noted that there is someone sleeping in the bus shelter by the library. 	

	<p>The Assistant Clerk will notify the Police. Cllr Blackburn has noted that a resident regularly takes rubbish away from the shelter. Ferring Country Centre- maintains the beds on the village green and small planters.</p> <p>Occasional tree work is undertaken by Bushwhackers and WSCC look after footpaths. It was noted that WSCC recently supplied materials to repair the footpaths in Clover Lane, Brook Lane and Ferringham Lanes. The repair work was undertaken by the Conservation Group and volunteers. More material is required next year.</p> <p>b. Play Equipment on the Green-17 tenders were received. The larger equipment should be installed in June. The tender that was accepted means that money will be left over, so more work will be done in the small children area. The Clerk will report to the Full Council.</p> <p>c. It was noted that the grass on the Green looks more like a field than a green as there are clumps of grass. This is an ongoing problem and attempts have been made in the past with Arun DC to upgrade the quality of the cutting. The grass at the Glebelands is cut more regular than the village green. It was noted that the grass is very long in the children play area. The contact at Arun DC will soon be leaving, so contact with the new Officer will have to be made.</p> <p>d. The sign for the village green has gone mouldy. A quote for cleaning will need to be obtained from Karl Washer.</p> <p>e. It was noted that the ivy has been cut back on the trees on the green by Arun DC.</p>	<p>AP1 FC</p> <p>AP2 GM</p> <p>AP3 FC</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Tree Matters <i>Simon Adams gave the report.</i></p> <p>a. An application for tree work has been made at Hangleton Grange, Simon will inspect.</p> <p>b. It was noted that we may need to plan a regeneration programme if any ash trees die in the village due to disease. Ash use a lot of water so trees with that characteristic will need to be planted, such as copper beech. There may be a cure for the disease, so there will not be any pre-emptive felling. Funding may be required in the budget in the next 2/3 years. It was noted that the North American ash and the Manor ash are resistant to the disease.</p> <p>c. It was noted that the Clerk sends all planning applications to the Tree Warden, Simon and then circulates his comments to Council.</p> <p>d. The tree warden objected to planning application 79/16.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Conservation Group Update <i>Patricia Hall gave the report.</i></p> <p>a. The Community Orchard is looking fine and the trees are starting to blossom. David Bettiss is organising a naming plaque. There is a problem with dog fouling. It was noted that pepper spray will deter animals without harming them.</p> <p>b. Karl Washer has cleaned the notice board and has noted the wood may be teak as the colour is quite red.</p> <p>c. The first of the beach cleans have taken place and the second Rife clean. There were about 29 volunteers. Three more cleans are scheduled.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Ferring Country Centre inadvertently cut down some willows on the Rife, so the Conservation Group has planted about 150 willow cuttings. e. A meeting will take place with members of the Conservation Group and the Environment Agency about the blanket cutting of the Rife. This has had a deleterious effect on numbers of small tortoiseshell butterflies as nettles have been cut. f. Watervoles are breeding at the south end of the Rife. g. Four pairs of Reed Warblers and some Reed Buntings and White throats have been seen. h. Wildflower seeds were to be sown in Little Twitten. The ground has been prepared, but it is not known if the seeds were scattered. Patricia will check. i. Packets of seeds have been purchased by the Conservation Group. These will be sown and planted in pots to be kept at individuals houses. The plants will flower July/Aug and will attract butterflies and bees. j. It was noted that the group has some 930 members. The group produces a magazine which is delivered to every member, the spare ones being put in the School and library. Any extras could be given to the Parish office. k. Salsify used to grow in the grass verge at the bottom of Sea Lane, but is no longer there. Apparently, it is a fickle plant. Patricia has some in her garden and will try to reseed the grass verge. 	AP4 PH
8	<p>FRSA <i>Richard Potton gave the report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The planting programme has been sorted out for the gardens looked after by the FRSA. b. A tree needs to be felled in Clover Lane as it is rotten. c. Resurfacing of Ferringham Lane will shortly take place. Letters have been sent out to affected residents. Only one side of the road will be done at any time, so access will still be possible. 	
9	<p>Parish Clerk Updates & Discussion Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Brick Pathway- The pathway near the hearing shop is in a bad state. There is also a deep pothole in the road about a foot deep. Both the path and roadway are owned by the owner of the hearing shop. It was agreed that the pothole could be potentially harmful to road users. The Clerk has already written to the owner. It was agreed to write to the owner of the pathway and road way again and copy the letter to both Arun DC and West Sussex CC. b. Littering-rubbish in Langbury Lane and railway crossing- this is an ongoing problem. ASDA has been approached to provide a rubbish bin, but they will not do so. Littering has been worse recently as the bin at the bus shelter was broken and taped off so could not be used, The Parish Clerk has contacted Arun DC who have replaced the bin. It was noted that if FPC purchases a bin, then FPC has to arrange for it to be emptied, Arun DC will not take it over. <p>There is a littering problem at the Ocean Parade garden as rubbish is being strewn around. It is not known if the rubbish is being pulled out of the bin by foxes or birds. It is known that someone is placing bags of household rubbish in the bin; this will attract wild animals. The Pantiles ditch was full of rubbish until the shop owner cleared it all.</p> <p>The bins on the seafront were overflowing, so Karl Washer emptied them. Arun DC now empties them twice a week.</p> <p>It was noted that there is litter around in the village near the shops. It was</p>	AP 5 FC

	<p>agreed that we should contact the shops to ask them to keep the front of their shops clean. The office will produce a flyer called 'Clean for the Queen' which will be delivered to the South village shops by Cllrs Mines and Robertson, and to the North village shops by a volunteer.</p> <p>It was agreed not to go with a suggestion for a paid Litter Warden as the Conservation Group cleans the Rife and the beach, or with the suggestion that we contact Ford Prison to arrange for litter picking by people on Community Service.</p> <p>c. Dog Fouling-This is the biggest complaint from residents. It is also the biggest complaint of every other Council. Arun DC has debated this problem at Cabinet and may agree a Public Open Space Prohibition Order which will make dog owners keep their dogs on leads. The Clerk has contacted the Dog Warden at Arun DC and extra patrols can be purchased at a cost of £15 per hour. It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that 10 hours could be purchased at a cost of £150. We will then publicise that dog patrols will take place, but not say where and when. It was noted that the worst areas are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pattersons Walk • The west side of the Rife • Little Twitten cricket ground (Sea Lane to the church) • Glebelands Community Orchard • The village Green by the play area. <p>d. Cycling on Footpaths-complaints has been received about cycling on the footpaths, but the signs are there to deter cyclists, it is not illegal to cycle on the paths. The problem occurs when cyclists are not considerate.</p> <p>e. Langbury lane bus shelter-there was a move to install a bench in the Langbury lane bus shelter for the benefit of local users. A survey of local residents, however, showed that most residents do not want a bench.</p> <p>f. Changes to Committee- each Council group is being reorganised to streamline and rationalise them. A new group called 'Communities and facilities' will incorporate Tennis and Football Clubs, green areas and play equipment. The changes will not affect this Committee.</p>	<p>AP 6 FC</p> <p>AP 7 FC</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Project Updates Cllr Mines gave the report.</p> <p>a. Pattersons Walk- Cllr Mines has a meeting with the owner of the Bluebird café who is researching ownership of the land near the café. Natural England, a non-departmental Government sponsored body has been tasked to produce a coastal path around the UK. They are now looking at West Sussex and have written to local landowners.</p> <p>b. Village Green frontage-the ivy has been cut back off the trees which is a great improvement as it has opened up the area. There are too many trees, so a decision will need to be made to fell some. It was agreed that the entrance needs to be made smarter. It was suggested that a small bed should be made/large planter positioned and the remainder of the area grassed. Cllr Mines will meet with Patricia Hall and David Bettiss to further this project.</p> <p>c. Queens 90th Birthday Commemorative Memorial- the original idea was to purchase a large boulder which would be engraved in order to commemorate the Queen's birthday. Unfortunately the boulder chosen by Cllr Mines was sold to another purchaser and no boulder of similar quality can be sourced. It was agreed to plant a specimen tree instead and install a plaque near to it. Cllr Robertson has a piece of granite which she will be willing to donate. This could be engraved and then mounted near the tree. Cllr Mines will inspect the granite stone to see if suitable. He will then liaise</p>	<p>AP8 GM</p> <p>AP 9 GM</p>

	with the engravers and look into the purchase of a specimen tree. The commemoration will take place on the weekend of 10 th June.	
11	<p>Items for Next Agenda & Items for Information Only</p> <p>a. It was noted that the Ferringham Lane brook is again full of weeds. FPC did clear the weeds as a 'one-off' but the owners of Viceroy Court have the riparian ownership and are now responsible. The Assistant Clerk will contact the Management Agent. Arun DC has powers passed on by West Sussex CC to enforce riparian ownership. It was noted that Watershed funding is now available once more.</p> <p>b. It was noted that most of the surface weeds on Warren pond have gone. Cllr Blackburn did a Risk Assessment for the pond. Now the fence is in place, Cllr Blackburn will amend the RA.</p> <p>c. The bus shelter on the north side of going way looks rusty around the top. Karl Washer will be asked to look at this when he does his next round of maintenance.</p>	
12	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 11 Aug 2016</p> <p>The meeting ended at 21.15pm</p>	