

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

FERRING PARISH COUNCIL

Environment, Amenities and Footpaths Committee (Advisory Powers)

Minutes of the Environment, Amenities and Footpaths Committee Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 20th December 2021 at the Village Hall

Present	Councillors	Clare Royal (Chair)
		Mark Stacey
		Ruth Arnold
	Conservation Group	Tricia Hall

1	<p>Apologies for Absence Apologies received from Councillors Alex Juniper and Terry Jackson and Tree Warden Phillip Ellis, their apologies were accepted.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of Interest There were no declarations made.</p>	
3	<p>Public Question Time There was one member of the public present.</p>	
4	<p>To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting held Monday 6th October 2021 The minutes were agreed as the correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
5	<p>Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting Nothing to mention</p>	
6	<p>Information Items a. Village Green – Cllr Clare Royal updated the committee from Cllr Stephen Abbott. The bulbs are planted thanks to the David Bettiss and some volunteers of the Conservation Group. The initial works have begun to redress the problems on the northern strip up to the toilets, with some of the shrubs being moved to the first section to increase planting density. As the Parks manager is away it will be the New Year before I can gain any further update on the prioritisation level of that area in the maintenance frequency schedule but I think we have a strong case to raise the classification. Will follow up in the new year and report back.</p>	SA

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	<p>b. Bench Sea Lane – The Conservation Group are working with a resident to install a memorial bench at the southern end of Sea Lane. As this is West Sussex County Council land permission will need to be granted and the licence has been erected at the site for 28 days.</p> <p>c) Greystoke Road trees – Councillor Clare Royal confirmed that a replacement Sorbus tree has been planted at Greystoke Road by West Sussex County Council.</p>	
7	<p>Allotment increase - The committee acknowledged that there was an increase in 2019 and after a brief discussion it was agreed that there would not be an increase for the next two years.</p>	
8	<p>FPC Maintenance Contractor Works - Councillor Clare Royal advised that Councillor John Tero will be working on this.</p>	
9	<p>Ferring Nurseries contract – Councillor Clare Royal advised that Councillor John Tero will be working on this.</p>	
10	<p>Dog Issues - Following the last meeting of the Environment Committee; FPC Chairman Peter Coe volunteered to look at the potential locations of dog owner code of practice signs. Councillor Peter Coe has walked around all the “hot spots” including the village green to identify types and locations of signs and has obtained a range of costs from £300 to £500 for 30 signs including VAT and delivery. The Environment Committee agreed to pursue and will be recommended to Finance & General Purposes Committee & Full Council consideration.</p> <p>This will be included as an item on the next Finance & General Purposes Committee agenda.</p>	
11	<p>Dog Bin – An enquiry came from a resident for an additional new dog bin in Langbury Lane. Administrator Amanda Thomas obtained a cost from ADC, however ADC advised that they are looking to implement a review of the historical arrangements and charges in place early next year.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to wait until there is a clearer picture from ADC regarding the cost restructure.</p>	
12	<p>New Projects a) War Memorial Enhancement Project – The Committee agreed that the flag pole could be replaced. Councillor Clare Royal suggested that this will be an item for the FPC Projects Group to obtain quotations. Administrator Amanda Thomas will forward all details to Councillor Lesley Young for the Project Group.</p> <p>b) Removal of Flag Pole at Village Green -</p>	AT

	<p>At a previous meeting it was suggested that the flag pole at the Village Green could be moved over to the War Memorial, however it was established that they had different types of fittings. Also, it was not clear who owned the flag pole and therefore it was agreed that we would wait for the new year and when West Sussex Archives reopen to establish ownership.</p> <p>c) Call for Nature sites - The SDNPA has launched a Call for Nature Sites with a deadline for expressions of interest on the 17 January 2022. The appeal is inviting farmers, land managers, communities and conservation groups across the National Park to put forward possible sites where new wildlife habitat could be created. Tricia Hall from the Conservation Group suggested an area at Highdown, she will forward the Grid reference to Amanda to submit to South Downs.</p> <p>d) Pill Box wheelchair ramp – Councillor Ruth Arnold suggested the idea of putting a wheelchair ramp on the raised area by the Pill Box on Patterson’s Walk. Chairman Peter Coe drew up a diagram and has been in touch with ADC who are very positive about the idea. Costs will be the next course of action.</p> <p>e) Hedgehogs - With hedgehog numbers in decline and hedgehog awareness on the rise, there has never been a better time to invest in hedgehog conservation products.</p> <p>A Hedgehog Highway is a 5 inch gap in a fence and is essential in the battle to prevent the extinction of our endangered spiky friends. This gap allows them access to forage for food and meet mates. A Highway surround raises awareness to their plight and encourages others to take part. Tricia Hall from the Conservation Group agreed this was a great idea, administrator Amanda Thomas to forward the email to Tricia so that the Conservation Group can get involved.</p> <p>f) Silver Jubilee Plaque at entrance to Glen Gardens – A resident emailed the office to ask if it is possible to renew the wording on the Silver Jubilee plaque which has faded. Councillor Clare Royal agreed to take this project on.</p> <p>g) Green Canopy - <i>The Queen’s Green Canopy</i> (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee”. Councillor Clare Royal has been to Arundel Arboretum and has been quoted £65.00 for a 6 foot tree, £25.00 to plant it and £7.50 for a stake. Tricia Hall from the Conservation Group suggested Clare also gets a quote from Lansdowne Nurseries. The committee agreed that a Maple or Beech would be nice but would take recommendations from our Tree Warden Philip Ellis. It was also agreed that The Pantiles was a good position to plant the tree. Councillor Clare Royal will prepare all details and will be recommended to Finance & General Purposes Committee & Full Council consideration.</p> <p>This will be included as an item on the next Finance & General Purposes Committee agenda.</p>	<p>SA</p> <p>TH / AT</p> <p>PC</p> <p>AT</p> <p>CR</p> <p>CR</p>
13	Parish Clerk Report – including Financial Report:	

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	<p>Amanda advised that invoices have been received from Ferring Nurseries for the monthly maintenance works.</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>Tree Matters: Phillip Ellis was not in attendance and gave his apologies. The committee suggested that Philip could do a 'write up' for All About Ferring regarding the Queens Green Canopy.</p>	
<p>15</p>	<p>Conservation Group Update: Tricia Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 Narcissi bulbs planted on Village Green frontage. • The 'guides' boat has been replanted by David Bettiss with pansies and wallflowers and a few of the bulbs. • Annual clear-up at Warren Pond. • A few trees have been grown by members or donated and these will go along the Rife in the spring. • Hornbeams have been planted by the Country Centre along Charles Way. • The Environment Agency has done some work on the east bank of the Rife. As a result, the banks look more flattened and rather bare but vegetation will grow back in the spring. • We have had meetings in the village hall since September. We have worn masks, sat socially distanced etc. Well attended, about 60 members for each. Membership is now over 950. • Walks: one to look for Fungi at The RSPB Reserve at Pulborough Brooks and the other, a local walk, to identify trees in winter. • Christmas cards raised £300 for the Chestnut Tree House Hospice. • A White Beam has been planted on Greystoke Road to replace the one that died. • We have applied for funding for several nest boxes for the Warren Pond area. • We should like to see more wild flower sites on our village greens and for the wild flower mixes to be of better quality. Arun fund two but in the past the PC have contributed and we certainly could. Arun sow these. <p>The Conservation Group would like to purchase bird boxes to be erected at Warren Pond. The Committee voted and unanimously agreed to cover the cost of £110.02 for the bird boxes. This cost will come under dispensations for expenditure of up to £250.00 for minuted instructions from Committee's as resolved at FPC Full Council 26th July 2021.</p>	<p>PO</p>

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	<p>Tricia Hall agreed to ask The Environment Agency for permission to have one perch bench on the west side of The Rife.</p> <p>Tricia Hall also agreed to contact ADC for different types of wild flower seeds for 2022. FPC to consider a financial contribution towards seeds at a later date.</p>	<p>TH</p> <p>TH</p>
16	<p>Urgent matters arising, since the preparation of this Agenda & Items to be referred to next Agenda</p> <p>Nothing to mention.</p>	
17	<p>Date of Next Meeting – Monday 28th March 2022</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 8.25pm</p>	