**FERRING PARISH COUNCIL**

**Environment Liaison Committee**

***(Advisory Powers only)***

**Minutes of the Environment Liaison Committee Meeting**

**held on Monday 9th June 2025 at 7.00pm at the Parish Office.**

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| Present | Councillors | John Tero (Chairman) |
|  |  | Andy Walker (Vice Chairman) |
|  | Chairman  ex officio | Clare Royal |
|  |  |  |
|  | FRSA | Simon Thompson |
|  | Conservation Group | David Bettiss |

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| 1 | **Elect a Chairman**  Councillor John Tero was elected as the Chairman of Environment Liaison Committee. |  | |
| 2 | **Elect a Vice Chairman**  Councillor Andy Walker was elected as the Vice Chairman of Environment Liaison Committee. |  | |
| 3 | **Apologies for Absence**  Apologies were received from Councillors Graham Bootle & Stuart Davies. The apologies were accepted.  Councillors Marlon Foakes & Simon Ash were not in attendance with no apologies received. |  | |
| 4 | **Declarations of Interest**  Councillor Clare Royal declared an interest in agenda item 11, Allotments. |  | |
| 5 | **Public Question Time**  No members of the public were present. |  | |
| 6 | **To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting held Monday 17h March 2025.**  The Minutes of the Environment Liaison Committee held on 17th March 2025 – item 7g  should read: The Conservation Group suggested that the committee look at the Rampion Funding. |  | |
| 7 | **Actions update from the last meeting**  Amend minute item 7g from Monday 17th March. | **AT** | |
| 8 | **Review and agree Committee Terms of Reference –**  The Committee agreed the Terms of Reference.  This will be recommended for Full Council approval. |  | |
| 9 | **Items for Information –**   1. **Metal Bus Shelters** – Amanda confirmed that the holes have been filled. 2. **Holm Oak western end of war memorial -** The landowner has agreed to leave the tree as it is now and will keep it under review and revert back to FPC at a later date 3. **Village Green Board** – Amanda confirmed that a new information board is on order by ADC. David Bettiss, Vice Chair of the Conservation Group asked if the Community notice board could be renovated and bushes around it to be cut back. | **AT** | |
| 10 | **Environment & Amenities**  a.**Warren Pond –** Councillor John Tero asked when the finishing tree work would be carried out. The Committee asked Amanda to chase the tree surgeon.  b. **Hanging Baskets** - Councillor Andy Walker talked the committee through the detailed paper. It includes 8 lamp posts in Ferring Street from the village sign up to the railway line, excluding lamp posts covered by trees. One off cost **£2568.00 + vat,** Annual/Seasonal costs **- £1686.00 + vat.**  The Committee recommend this to go to Finance on the 7th July.  c. **Blue Boat Project –** The Blue Boat area is now in need of renovation and the sleepers are deteriorating. The Committeelooked at the quotation received from a recommended company via ADC. The Committee asked if ADC could recommend further contractors to quote. The Committee would like three quotes if possible but appreciate that the company must have experience of gaining access to the beach and creating safety in the area. The Committee asked Amanda to contact ADC.  d. **To Publicise Parish Council Projects/Plaques –** Amanda confirmed that the plaques are on order, there is a delay in raw materials. Councillor Andy Walker asked Amanda to chase this again.  e. **Suggestion Box –** The Committee agreed to remove this agenda item.  f. **Councillor Social Events** – The Committee agreed to remove this agenda item.  g. **Board Walk** – Councillor Stuart Davies produced a paper prior to the meeting, Councillor John Tero ran through this. The Committee wondered whether a smaller area just off Pattersons Walk by the beach huts would be a better option bearing in mind the overall cost. It was pointed out that the car park is not ideal for wheelchairs, therefore general access is an issue. Councillor John Tero offered to look into funding options. Councillor Andy Walker suggested a platform going out from the Blue Boat area from Ocean Drive, but there isn’t much room to drop off at the bottom of Ocean Drive. Committee agreed to keep this item on the agenda.  h. **Tree Warden –** Amanda explained that FPC need to recruit a new volunteer tree warden and suggested that this role may be suitable for a Councillor. Councillor Andy Walker asked if there was a job specification. Councillor Clare Royal previously issued the requirements to the office and suggested advertising the role as well. | | **AT**  **AT**  **AT**  **AT**  **JT**  **AT** |
| 11 | **Allotments –** Amanda advised the committee that the Parish Office had a meeting with the allotment holders and a few items were actioned. This will stay on the agenda should any issues arise. |  | |
| 12 | **Environment Liaison Committee Finance report** – Amanda Thomas updated the Committee members. |  | |
| 13 | **Land at Goring Gap** – Ferring Parish Council became aware a few weeks ago via social media, that a current landowner is selling his section of land at Goring Gap.  Councillor John Tero advised the Committee that an email has been received from the Conservation Group Membership Secretary explaining that a community-based organisation will set up a trust and that they will meet next week to explore the various possibilities. There is no action required for this Committee or Ferring Parish Council. |  | |
| 14 | **To report Payments made by dispensation –**  The Committee agreed to purchased plants for the sum of £66.80 + VAT.  This cost will come under dispensation for expenditure of up to £450.00 for  minuted instructions as resolved at the Environment Liaison Committee Meeting 5thJune 2023. |  | |
| 15 | **Reports from external representatives**   1. **FRSA**   **Roads**  **Drainage**  Following the CCTV survey and detailed report last Autumn we have completed some of the programmed repairs to drains and gulley pots, with the second phase addressing 16 more locations starting a couple of weeks ago.  **Road Repairs**  We have engaged the ongoing service of a professional engineer who has helped produce a list of c100 minor repairs – these should be completed by the end of the year.  Some faded and concealed road markings around the Pantiles area have been repainted.  **Gardens**  In general, some of the planting introduced over the past 2 years has not produced some of the colour I had hope for. I am reviewing further suggestions with the gardener.  **Ocean Drive**  I have written again to the owners about our position as no response received to earlier approach.  **Clover Lane/Barbary Lane**  The overgrown trees and shrubs were cut back in February.  I have now engaged gardeners – initially to clear and dig over the central section, then to assist with new planting and ongoing maintenance.  **Other Business –**  As a result of some unwarranted and excessive communications from a resident/member of the scheme, the Committee have now approved and published an Unacceptable Behaviour Policy and Procedure statement on our website.  b.**Conservation Group –** David Bettiss reported the following:  **Warren Pond**  Plants bought by Ferring Parish Council have been planted and include a wetland collection of 10 plants plus bunches of an oxygenating plant, Hornwort. A further work party is planed there in next couple of months. Last week, the Great Crested Newt surveyor carried out an overnight bottle trap survey and sadly no newts were found, although a bit late in year for them to be in the water still, and one has recently been seen in a local garden. Tadpoles, Water Boatmen and other aquatic creatures were found though.  A bat detector was also deployed and results from this are awaited. There have also been recent sightings around the pond of foxes, badger and an owl, which is encouraging. A Moorhen is currently nesting on the wooden platform, and the resident Terrapin is being monitored for possible relocation.  Low water levels are a concern especially if we have a dry and warm Summer after a very dry Spring. We’re also awaiting a further visit by the tree surgeon to trim back some Willow etc.  **General**  Recent work parties have been carried out in and around the boat at the foot of Sea Lane and the Village Green, with the next one planned for the Community Orchard. The Pillbox has had 2 successful open days so far this year, with four more to come. Beach clean was carried out in May with thankfully only a small amount of rubbish found, although one grateful person was reunited with her lost earring, found by one of our sharp-eyed participants – the Village centre area clean will take place on Sunday 13 July, concentrating on the Green and recreation ground. Our monthly water quality testing of the Rife carried out for the last 2 years has now ended as levels are stable and testing is being carried out by local Rivers Trust.  Concern has also been expressed about the apparent cutting back of the Tamarisk bushes in vicinity of Patterson’s Walk in front of one particular property, and the fact that this possibly wasn’t carried out by Arun DC or with their permission (further enquiries will be carried out about this).  c.**Tree Warden** – No Tree Warden at present. | **AT** | |
| 16 | **All about Ferring Magazine –** Nothing for this addition. |  | |
| 17 | **Urgent matters arising, since the preparation of this Agenda & Items to be referred to next Agenda**  There was nothing to mention. |  | |
| 1 | **Date of Next Meeting –** Monday 29th September 2025.  Meeting closed at 8.20pm.  Mrs Amanda Thomas  Administration Assistant |  | |
|  | **Minutes approved**  **Chairman ……………………………………………… Date ………………** |  | |