

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

FERRING PARISH COUNCIL

Environment Liaison Committee
(Advisory Powers only)

Minutes of the Environment Liaison Committee Meeting
held on Monday 27th July 2026 at 7.00pm at the Parish Office.

Present	Councillors	John Tero (Chairman)
		Stuart Davies
		Graham Bootle
		Simon Ash
	FRSA Gardens	Simon Thompson
	Conservation Group	David Bettiss
	Tree Warden	Not Present

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 Councillor Andy Walker. The apologies were accepted.	
4	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.	
5	Public Question Time No members of the public were present.	
6	To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting held 23rd March 2026 The Minutes of the Environment Liaison Committee held on 23 rd March 2026 were approved by its Committee Members and signed by the Chairman presiding as a correct record.	
7	Review and agree Committee Terms of Reference – The Committee agreed the Terms of Reference. This will be recommended for Full Council approval.	

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	g. Community Area at Village Green – The Committee agreed that replacing the broken planter would enhance the appearance of the area. Councillor John Tero will obtain pricing options for the next meeting. h. Community Allotment - The Charity Champion at Asda Superstore met with the Parish Council on 6th May to discuss the possibility of establishing a community allotment within the supermarket grounds. The Committee agreed that Amanda will contact Asda for an update on the project and to ascertain whether they would like the Parish Council to include an expression of interest in the Parish Flyer to gauge residents' interest. i. Sea Lane grass cutting – Members noted that the protected salsify area in Sea Lane, which has been left uncut under a long-standing arrangement since 2013, was included in this year's grass-cutting programme. WSCC advised that no planting license is recorded for the site and that a license application has been submitted (Ref. 939837). The Committee agreed to seek clarification from WSCC regarding the status of the 2013 arrangement and measures to prevent a recurrence. David Bettiss reported that the grass was cut incorrectly again last week. Further communication from the Assistant Highway Manager is awaited. j. Chris Packham National Emergency briefing - The Committee received a summary of Chris Packham's National Emergency Briefing, highlighting the role of parish councils in supporting biodiversity, protecting local green spaces, and encouraging community environmental initiatives. It was proposed that the briefing be shown at the Village Hall in conjunction with the Conservation Group to raise awareness and encourage local engagement. The Parish Office will obtain further information regarding the briefing and liaise with Ferring Village Hall regarding arrangements for hosting the event. k. Little Twitten bins - The Committee considered a resident's complaint regarding overflowing litter bins and litter at Little Twitten. It was agreed that the resident be provided with information on how to report overflowing bins to Arun District Council and that the Parish Office seek clarification on the frequency of bin emptying at this location. l. Pattersons Walk Benches - Councillor Stuart Davies presented photographs showing the poor condition of the benches along Patterson Walk. The Committee agreed that the Parish Council should write formally to Arun District Council requesting that the benches be renovated or replaced where necessary, with a copy of the letter will be sent to the District Councillor.	JT PO PO PO/DB PO PO
11	Allotments – a. Water Provision - The Committee noted that, following a meeting with allotment holders on 3rd June, it had been agreed that the existing hose system remained adequate and that a new water supply system was not required at this time. Subsequently, a section of the existing hose developed a leak. The hose route is currently obscured by vegetation, preventing access for repairs. Council approved the hire of a skip to enable allotment holders to clear vegetation and other obstructions from the affected area, together with the appointment of a tree surgeon to undertake hedge and weed clearance. The Parish Office will co-ordinate the works to facilitate the replacement of the damaged hose. b. Skip for Allotments – The Committee agreed to a skip for the allotment holders in Jan/Feb 2027.	PO PO
12	Environment Liaison Committee Finance report – Amanda Thomas updated the Committee members.	

13	To report Payments made by dispensation – None to report.	
14	Reports from external representatives a.FRSA - Simon Thompson reported the following: Ocean Drive The main planting of larger specimen took place on 8th April with only favourable comments forthcoming from those passing-by on that day. Our planned scheme has somewhat been justified by the recent extreme heat and projected weather predictions. Quotes for 2 oak pergolas were then received and approved by the Committee. They were expected to have been in situ towards the end of May, but delays with supplies of the oak meant that the installation only happened on 22nd June. However, I feel it was worth the wait as they bring some height and structure to the site. As previously indicated, further planting of smaller plants will take place around October/November, being the best time for perennials. Until then we shall continue to weed and remove errant plants as they appear – retaining some, such as the Yuccas, where they complement the new planting. Clover Lane/Barbary Lane Fresh topsoil was added to the centre bed after the metal edging was installed. Here too, more plants will be added later in the year. In the interim our gardener continues to trim the shrubs and tidy the shale border to keep the site neat. Recently, a large truck cut across the south corner and dislodged some of the new metal edging. Fortunately, the gardener was able to refit the sections without too much apparent damage, although we may need to replace some sections. Langbury Lane It was noticed that one of the large trees near to the level crossing was splitting where two main branches joined the trunk, with possible danger of falling into the road. I reported this via the WSCC website on 10th July; Received notification on 14th July that it had been inspected and a job raised; By 17th July it had been removed. b.Conservation Group – David Bettiss reported the following: A Bench installed by Conservation Group and Parish Council a number of years ago on Ferring side of Rife was destroyed by the Environment Agency grass mower. We've been in contact with EA who say they are in the process of sourcing a replacement bench. Also nearby in twitten leading to Ferringham Way is a long standing water leak leading to a flooded footpath - we've been in contact with Southern Water and appears to be a dispute between them and neighbouring householder as to who has responsibility, with Arun DC also involved. FCG work parties have continued at various locations - Warren Pond, Village Green, Community Orchard, and Sea Lane boat, plus boat on Patterson's Walk. Also 2 litter picks on beach and Village Green. In June we helped organise an activity day on the Rife and Ferring Country Centre for 60 students from St Oscar Romero school, which also involved Western Sussex	

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	Rivers Trust. As part of this water quality testing was carried out, and at the time quality was good with many small aquatic creatures and Sticklebacks. Successful open days at the Pillbox are continuing through the Summer, and Swift nest box project now has 15 boxes and 4 caller devices installed in the central part of village. No nests identified here yet but Swift activity in the area, plus nests close by in Goring. We're still awaiting Arun DC to install an interpretation board on Patterson's Walk re the Tamarisk trees there. David asked Amanda to follow this up. c.Tree Warden – Mike Pellett was not present.	PO
15	All about Ferring Magazine – Committee suggested Hanging baskets and Benches on village green.	
16	Urgent matters arising, since the preparation of this Agenda & Items to be referred to next Agenda a. The Committee noted that requests for memorial plaques have exceeded the available capacity on the beach benches. It was suggested that the previous proposal to create a dedicated memorial area, potentially on the Village Green at the former village sign location, be investigated further. b. The Committee noted that the overhanging vegetation from some private properties is obstructing the pavement. It was agreed that letters be sent to the residents requesting that they cut back the foliage to ensure safe passage for pedestrians.	PO PO
17	Date of Next Meeting – Monday 28th September 2026. Meeting closed at 8.45pm Mrs Amanda Thomas Administration Assistant	
	Chairman Date	