

ENVIRONMENT AGENDA DOCUMENTATION NOV 21

ITEM 6 ENVIROMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND GUIDANCE

The amendments AGREED at the meeting in March are highlighted in red

Terms of Reference – Environment Committee

3.1. To monitor the implications of highways, transport and environmental items within the Council's area.

3.2. To be responsible for the Council's involvement with all highways, transport and environmental issues and to review and respond to consultations/communications.

3.3. To consider the appearance of the villages within the Council's area and implement improvements. To provide and/or maintain, report problems with the following:

- Street furniture (bus shelters, benches, litter bins/litter collection)
- Notice boards • Village signs
- Floral arrangements • Dog waste bins
- Wooden finger posts (with East Sussex County Council)
- Footpaths and stiles (with East Sussex County Council)
- Overhanging trees/hedges
- **War memorials and items on the asset register**

3.4. To consider crime prevention measures including liaison with Police

3.5. To monitor and promote public transport services and to encourage sustainable transport.

3.6. To manage the Council's amenity land including:

- Rushlake Green Village Green
- Dog Corner
- Spring Hill, Punnetts Town
- Three Cups verge [phone box location]

3.7. To promote a culture of safety by risk assessments and compliance with current health and safety procedures

3.8. To work closely with the CIL Committee whose funds can be used for the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure

3.9. To submit a budgetary requirement to the F&GP Committee on a yearly basis

ITEM 7 SLR

A summary report will be circulated shortly along with a copy of the agenda for the recent SLR meeting which was attended by myself, Cllr Long, Cllr Smythe, Cllr Williamson and Cllr Graham.

Highways have encouraged the Parish Council to report any highways issues regularly via the Clerk.

The next SLR meeting has been scheduled for the 26th April 2022. All councillors are welcome to attend. A detailed report with attached photos is recommended when presenting items of concern to Highways.

ITEM 8 INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET

The following items were highlighted at the last Environment Committee meeting as items for the Clerk to obtain quotes for repair works:

The metal well cover at Spring Hill. Quote required for a replacement well cover which has eroded and left a hole.

The noticeboard at Rushlake Green Village Green. Quote required for the unstable legs and concrete slabs at the bottom of the noticeboard.

The Rushlake Green Village sign. Quote required to stabilize the post and the concrete slabs surrounding it.

I have endeavoured to get quotes for this work to no avail. However, JF Construction who have just completed the installation of the David Bysouth bench and have also completed work for Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council will be quoting as soon as possible.

I have re-sent the updated asset register, any assets requiring attention have been highlighted in red.

ITEM 9 OSBORNE HOUSE CLOCK

At the February 2021 Full Council meeting the Chairman advised Members the Osbourne House Clock would be a separate agenda item at the next Environment Committee meeting. Cllr Wells had requested the Parish Council seek to obtain a quote regarding the installation of an electric winding mechanism which could be presented at the next Environment. This was agreed.

The following was reported at the Environment meeting in March 2021:

Cllr Wells put me in touch with a local clockmaker who has been extremely helpful. They will be arranging a site visit with Cllr Wells in order to produce a free quote.

Please read the quote which has been circulated separately.

ITEM 11 BODLE STREET GREEN WAR MEMORIAL

An ex-councillor brought to the PC's attention in February 2021 the Bodle Street Green war memorial which was in need of some repair work and general cleaning.

It was AGREED at the February Full Council meeting that the Clerk would arrange for a free health check of the war memorial. The Chairman of F&GP asked Members to note there was not a specific budget for war memorial repair work and any costs would have to be taken back to the Environment Committee to be considered under the infrastructure budget. The other option would be to use Reserves or CIL funds.

CIL funds can be used for the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure.

I have sourced a local company who has been used by Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council in the past. I have been advised to obtain a quote before considering applying for a grant as this is a time-consuming process and the repair work cannot be completed before the grant has been received.

Please read the quote which has been circulated separately.

ITEM 12 EAST SUSSEX GRASS CUTTING SERVICE OPTIONS

On the 6th of February 2018 ESCC approved the County's budget which included a saving of £400,000 in regards to grass cutting. This meant a significant change to the service going forward from April 2018 and a reduction in the grass cutting policy was approved reducing the service from 6 urban cuts to 2 urban cuts per season.

It was resolved at the Full Council meeting in January 21 that the Parish Council would opt for option 1:

Option 1 - Standard: Two cuts over the course of a year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to the Parish/Town Council. Urban grass will be managed for safety purposes only.

We have received the following from ESCC regarding grass cutting for 2022/23:

I am writing in relation to the urban grass cutting service for 2022. East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is continuing to offer the same options as last year and would be grateful if you could let us know which option your Council would like to choose for next year.

Please note, from this year on we will be including an inflationary increase in the prices. This means that what you would pay ESCC for 4 extra cuts or what we would contribute to you to self-deliver will be slightly increased this year and each year going forward.

Option 1 - Standard: Two cuts over the course of a year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to the Parish/Town Council. Urban grass will be managed for safety purposes only.

Option 2 – Extra cuts: Parish/Town Councils may fund an additional four cuts to be carried out by ESCC, totalling six cuts (two standard and four extra) over the course of the year. This would cost the Parish/Town Council a total of £169 for the year.

Option 3 – Self delivery: Parish/Town Councils take on responsibility to deliver all urban grass cutting in their area. This must include a minimum of two cuts over the course of the year. ESCC will not carry out any urban grass cutting in the area. ESCC would pay the Parish/Town Council the sum of £84 to do this.

It should be noted that any contractor employed must be suitably competent and qualified to work safely on the highway. We also request an agreement to be signed between ESCC and the Parish/Town Council if you opt to self-deliver.

I would be grateful if you could indicate which option your Council would like to choose by **20th December**. Please be aware that if we have not heard back by this date, we will default to Option 1 – two standard cuts.

ITEM 13 BIKE HOOPS ON RUSHLAKE GREEN VILLAGE GREEN

The bike hoops are privately owned by a resident who lives close to The Green and are located on the small green opposite the shop. They are removable as they simply push into the grass on a temporary basis. Consideration could be given to their removal each day which would prevent a temporary trip hazard.

Cllr Long has invited the resident to attend the meeting.

ITEM 14 CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Long was voted temporary chairman at the last meeting in March.

Please consider if you would be interested in this role.

There are chairmanship webinars offered by ESALC and SLCC which would be available.

Please read the Terms of Reference and Guidance when considering the role which have been amended since the meeting in March 2021

ITEM 15 UPDATE ON THE FIVE WILD FLOWER ROUTES

Wild About Warbleton requested the Parish Council's support for five proposed new wild flower routes in 2020.

James Newmarch from ESCC was working with the HWAONB unit on a Nature Recovery Network project with Natural England aimed at improving ecological continuity between areas of habitat, and meadows especially, also increasing habitat for pollinators. He stated at the time further designated verges would help to achieve the aims of this project, as well as increasing the attractiveness of the area and contributing to the maintenance of the High Weald's landscape character.

Warbleton Parish Council's resolution at the Full Council meeting on 19th November 2020 was as follows:

Warbleton Parish Council resolved to support the Wild About Warbleton's five proposed new routes for conservation adoption subject to there being no adverse Highways safety issues or concerns with the same principle applied to any properties situated along those particular verges regarding their sightlines. Also, on the condition East Sussex County Council have a management scheme in place and will not neglect these verges.

It was confirmed by ESCC at the SLR meeting on the 28th October the five routes were now officially wildflower verges.

I have requested additional information from East Sussex specifically any observation reports that I could circulate.