

NOTES ON A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP (EWG)

22nd February 2021 via zoom

Attendees: Cllrs John Turner (JT, Chair), Neil Barrington-Johnson (N B-J), Ed Langridge (EL) and Dave Pate (DP)

In attendance: Catherine Barrett (CB) Administrative Assistant

Apologies for absence received from: Ben Scarbrough (work commitments).

1) Review of the last EWG meeting minutes, 25th January

JT gave a brief recap of the previous meeting for those who had been unable to attend.

2) Review and agree ToR

JT presented the re-worked ToR and outlined his thinking behind item no. 8, which contained an over-arching charter to improve and protect the parish environment. The three pillars of focus were:

- i) Enhance the AONB and Green areas of the Parish eg. tree planting; supporting local fauna and wildlife
- ii) Reduce the environmental footprint of the Parish eg. promoting sustainable home consumption such as energy and water saving; supporting and enhancing, where possible, Council and Government environmental initiatives
- iii) Encourage residents' ideas on conservation and environmental improvements eg. via engaging school children; litter picks

EL suggested that wording be added about working with other likeminded local environmental groups such as the High Weald Partnership. It was agreed that the sentence "work with likeminded local environment organisations when appropriate" would be added to item 8.iii.

DP recommended that wording be added about connectivity between the EWG and the Planning Committee. It was agreed that the sentence "Ensure environmental matters are taken into account within planning applications" would be added to item 8.i. N B-J suggested that the Planning Committee ToR be amended accordingly if necessary.

CB asked if the working group would like to consider asking any other committees to take environmental matters into account. DP said that Alan Ford, an MoP who had previously been part of the EWG, had undertaken work on the environmental value of SPC-owned land. It was agreed that this question should be given further thought.

The ToR – with the agreed amendments – would be presented to Full Council for approval on 1st March.

3) Agree Members of Public to contact

It was agreed that approximately the same number of MoP as before should be part of the EWG. It was felt that the expertise of the 6 people previously involved would be invaluable. JT would liaise with CB and contact these people once the ToR had been approved. He would also approach Cllr Mrs Soyke to ask if she knew of anyone in Ashurst who would be interested in joining.

Once the MoP had been confirmed, a further meeting would be scheduled.

4) Covid Compliance

DP recommended that thought be given to meeting locations once the working group was able to meet in person once more.

The meeting closed at 8.03pm.