

HUNSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 2 March 2016 in the Annexe, Hunston Village Hall.

Present: Mr S Baker (Chairman), Mrs B Delaney-Beckford, Mr S Solliss

In attendance: Mrs C Smith (Clerk)

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Baker took the chair.

1/16E Questions/Comments from members of the public.

None.

2/16E Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Furlong, Cllr Kenney and Cllr Knowlson.

3/16E Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Delaney-Beckford declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 as a resident of Outram Way.

4/16E Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 28 October 2015

The Chairman called for the approval of the Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 28 October 2015. These were **AGREED** and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

5/16E Updates.

5.1 Ditches and flooding

It was reported that the small bore culverts in Church Lane were prone to getting clogged up and it was suggested that it would be useful if someone who lives down there checked and when necessary cleared them out from time to time. It was also reported that the colour of the water in the ditches suggested that the farmers might be using excess nitrates on the land. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to residents in Church Lane asking if residents might check and clear the culverts from time to time.

It was also agreed that the Clerk should contact Jane Reeve (Manhood Wildlife Officer) and ask her to speak to the land owners about regularly inspecting and clearing the ditches and culverts now that they have been worked on through the Operation Watershed funding.

It was noted that Church Lane appeared to be vulnerable to fly tipping.

5.2 Cycle routes

The Selsey to Chichester Cycle route has been the subject of a feasibility study which has confirmed that the route is feasible subject to the land, engineering and the funds to progress it. The proposed route was reviewed.

Reference was made to the current Cycle Route 88 from Hunston to North Mundham and the desirability of having this route extended to the rear of Fletcher Place. It was agreed that the Clerk should make contact with Sustrans and the County Council to try and progress this as a project.

5.3 Footpaths

It was noted that footpaths through the village were only inspected and cleared on a 9 month rolling cycle by the County Council. It was also reported that the footpath from Outram Way to the main road was also inaccessible when very wet. Some remedial work was being carried out by the Management Company (Foxley Meadows).

The footpath to North Mundham was very overgrown last year and this appeared to be a problem with many of the footpaths through the village. There was a long discussion about the potential issues with volunteers undertaking the work; having the necessary equipment and what to do with the waste generated. Options including budgeting to someone to undertake more regular maintenance work and using the Community pay Back Teams were also considered.

It was agreed that it would be useful to have discussions with West Sussex County Council Officers to explore possibilities of using volunteers and how to dispose of any cuttings.

There was a strong feeling that the County Council should be required to undertake maintenance work more often.

5.4 Tree Management

The Clerk reminded Councillors of the need to undertake a Tree Audit. It was agreed that the Clerk would send Cllr Baker the necessary paperwork to undertake a Tree Audit and that he would take photographs of the trees so that they could be properly identified. It was also agreed that it might be appropriate to have a suitably qualified arboriculturist to undertake a proper inspection every 3 or 4 years.

6/16E Land off Outram Way.

The Clerk confirmed that the transfer of the land had been completed. It was reported that the Foxley Meadows Management Company were going to undertake a final tidy up of the area including the gravelling of the footpath. The Management Company had arranged for the grass to be cut 5/6 times a year. The area does get very wet particularly around the wooden bridge which would require maintenance in the future.

A review of the drains in the area had been done. A foul water drain runs under the pathway and all houses have soakaways in their properties. Road drainage goes into surface water drains.

Cllr Sollis had met with Joe Saville (Manhood Wildlife Group). He highlighted the problems with the general area but much of this related to the car park. It was apparent that Southern Electric were not maintaining the sub-station. The Clerk was requested to write to Southern Electric and request that they tidy up the area around the sub-station.

The post and rail fence was broken round the car park. It was suggested that this was either repaired or removed. It was agreed that this should be removed.

The Holly hedge that runs up to the exit to the car park needs trimming. The Laurels are interesting features but could probably do with topping. The rest of the area is mostly laid to grass.

It was suggested that planting along the fence line could be undertaken and the Manhood Wildlife Group could help with this. The grassy area could be left as a meadow area with just a reasonable footpath cut through it. If any planting was going to be carried out it would be important to talk to the owners of the neighbouring properties first.

It was agreed that it was important to keep the pathway through to Outram Way and the car park clear.

It was agreed that Councillors would have another look at the area before making any decision on what action to take.

The Clerk was also asked to write to the two households either side of the alley confirming that the Parish Council had taken over ownership of the land.

7/16E The date of the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 13 April 2016.

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairman