



Hurst Life Protocol

- The Assistant Clerk will email on around the 25th of each month to notify the article writer that it is their turn and suggest content. The email will include deadline dates for the office to receive the first draft and for it to be submitted to Hurst Life. The Clerk, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Chair of Community Engagement can also input any content that they feel should be incorporated in this article.

If the Councillor who is responsible for writing the article is unable to do it, then the Assistant Clerk must be informed straight away so a replacement author can be found.

- The first draft article is sent to the Assistant Clerk with a list of any images that are needed to be added. The Assistant Clerk will also add the meetings calendar to the end of the draft article.
- The draft article will then be sent to the Clerk, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Chair of Community Engagement as well as the author for proof-reading and fact-checking. A deadline date for edits/comments will be included in the email.

If someone feels that the article content isn't correct or needs substantial re-writing, then a discussion should take place with the author to discuss how it can be edited/re-written.

- A final draft will be circulated by the Assistant Clerk and once approval has been received, she will send the text and images across to the editor of Hurst Life, all councillors and office staff.
- The editor will send a pdf proof to the Assistant Clerk on the second to last Friday of the month. This pdf will be sent to the Clerk, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chair of Community Engagement, and the Author of the article for comment. The Assistant Clerk will set a deadline for any comments to be received for changes on the layout.
- The Assistant Clerk will send any comments/changes to the editor of Hurst Life.
- The Assistant Clerk will update the front cover images on the link from our website to Hurst Life Magazine.



Example layout of a Hurst Life Article:

Max Words: 1,000

Max Images: 6



April 2024 | Parish Council News
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Hurst Meadows

During February our Conservation Volunteers spent time giving care and attention to the newly planted native tree whips in Walnut Tree, Hovel Field, and Edgerley Meadow. Thank you to everybody who helped with this work. We were pleased to see that most of the whips look healthy with signs of new buds emerging and that, bar a few, they seem to be holding their own against the very wet conditions we have experienced this winter.



The volunteers replaced canes and tree guards where necessary. We also spent a lot of time picking up pieces of broken tree guards from the ground where presumably they have been trodden on by walkers. These are unfortunately made from recycled plastic so obviously we want to avoid this plastic going down into the soil. There seem to be areas of planting where whips have been knocked over by dogs – the guards then slip off, blow around and get trodden on or the whips grow at the wrong angle. **Please do not let your dogs run through these newly planted areas so that we can avoid this happening.**

We were very lucky that two out of the three days we were working in Hurst Meadows were warm and sunny. We were accompanied all the time by bird song and especially the beautiful sound of skylarks as they pair up ready to nest. It is worth just stopping and listening for a few minutes when you walk across Hurst Meadows – as well as the skylarks, highlights last month included the sound of great spotted woodpeckers drumming on the trees and the lovely music of the song thrush.

The Parish Council with the help of the Monday Group will be putting a couple more benches in the Meadows as soon as ground conditions allow, so there will be more places to sit and rest as you listen to the bird song.

We are so lucky to have skylarks in Hurst Meadows as the species is declining rapidly due to habitat loss. Our mowing regime is therefore partly planned to suit them. Although famous for singing high up in the sky, skylarks nest on the ground and unfortunately this makes them extremely vulnerable to disturbance, particularly by dogs. To give our skylarks the best chance of a successful nesting season, between March and September **please keep your dogs with you on the paths across Hurst Meadows and do not let them run across the central grassy areas.**



The perfect bench for listening to song thrushes and green woodpeckers in Bellows Nose



Skylark photo courtesy of Paul Evans

The Hurst Meadows butterfly survey season starts again on 1 April. Last year we were really pleased to have our first sighting of a rare Brown Hairstreak butterfly (so named because of the pattern across its underwings.)

These butterflies lay their eggs on young blackthorn growth and again numbers are threatened, partly due to modern methods of hedge management which can inadvertently destroy their eggs. We are very much hoping that our population of this butterfly will increase over the next few years. The information from the Hurst Meadows survey is fed into Butterfly Conservation's databank so also goes to inform knowledge and understanding of butterflies at the national level.

If you would like to spend more time in nature, either taking part in the weekly butterfly surveys or helping with other conservation tasks in Hurst Meadows please contact the Parish Office: office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk



Brown Hairstreak in Hurst Meadows 2023

Are You Interested In Local Nature?

Save the Date - Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 21 May

We know many of our residents, value and want to protect nature and the countryside. The theme for this year's Annual Parish Meeting will therefore be "Beyond Your Doorstep: Discover the Hidden Nature in our Parish."

We have some interesting speakers booked and we have invited our local environmental and wildlife groups to have stalls. Come and find out about Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common's swifts, barn owls, frogs and other resident wildlife and what you can do to encourage and protect them.

If you are part of a local group and would like a (free) stall at this event, please contact the Parish Office.



Sustainability Strategy

The Parish Council's Sustainability Strategy can be found on our website in the following location: <https://www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk/services-information/parish-action-plans>

This was produced by our Sustainability Working Group based on consultation with residents both via Hurst Life and at our 2020 Annual Parish Meeting and subsequently adopted at Council.

The Key Objectives in the Strategy are:

- Help nature to recover
- Reduce waste
- Increase access to green spaces
- Reduce carbon emissions
- Build resilience

We continue to be active in moving this forward though it can be challenging as some of the measures we might like to adopt are the responsibility of other authorities so our role may be limited to one of encouragement and/or support for action. We also participate in national and local initiatives such as No Mow May, the Lost Woods of the Low Weald and Downs, the new MSVA Eco-Forum and are increasingly co-operating with other Mid Sussex parish councils particularly in looking at how we can work together to protect nature in an area vulnerable to building development.

Orchard Blossom Day Friday 26 April 2-4 pm

Our Heritage Orchard manager, Martin Sadler will be holding an open afternoon to celebrate our award-winning orchard on National Orchard Blossom Day. Come and enjoy the blossom on our old Sussex varieties of apple tree and bring any questions you may have about caring for your own fruit trees.



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April 2024 Meeting Schedule

Please check the Parish Council notice boards or our website to confirm the meeting location. Members of the public are welcome to attend, and all meetings commence at 7.30pm.

Monday 8th	Planning Committee	Village Centre
Thursday 11th	Community Engagement Committee	Village Centre
Thursday 18th	Finance, Governance & Estates Committee	Village Centre
Thursday 25th	Full Council	Sayers Common Village Hall
Thursday 29th	Planning Committee	Village Centre

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DRAFT Hurst Life 12 Month Plan 2024/2025

Article Month	Committee/Advisory Group who is responsible	Name of Chair	Article needs to contain	Deadline	Hurst Life deadline
April 24	Community Engagement	Chair of CE	Save the date APM, environmental section, spring in the meadows & Millennium Garden.	8 th March	12 th March
May 24	Hurst Meadows Working Group	Chair of CE	No Mow May, Hurst Meadows news, volunteers APM poster (extra page).	12 th April	16 th April
June 24	Estate & Facilities	Chair of Governance, Finance & Estates	Village Centre promotion, facilities, groups, rates for bookings etc	10 th May	14 th May
July 24	Full Council	Chairman of Council	Feedback from the APM, Annual Council Meeting and programme for the current council year.	7 th June	11 th June
August 24	Community Engagement	Chair of CE	Small Grants, Health & Wellbeing grants, Food Bank update and general information.	12 th July	16 th July
September 24	Highway & Cycleways Working Group	Chair of Highway & Cycleways	Update on Community Highway Scheme, parking, cycle paths, SID and St Law Fair feedback	9 th August	13 th August
October 24	Hurst Meadows Working Group	Chair of CE	Hurst Meadows update including the Apple Orchard, volunteering, and upcoming events.	13 th September	17 th September
November 24	Estates & Facilities	Chair of Finance, Governance, & Estates	Court Bushes Community Hub promotion, facilities, groups, rates for bookings etc.	11 th October	15 th October
December 24	Full Council	Chairman of Council	Remembrance Sunday photos, Christmas lights, opening hours, winter plan and HM New Year Day walk.	8 th November	12 th November
January 25	Community Engagement	Chair of CE	Wellbeing themed article including information about health & wellbeing grants from the PC. Wassail	1 st December	6 th December
February 25	Community Engagement	Chair of CE	General update including any information from traders and the High Street. Grants and Health & Wellbeing Projects.	10 th January	14 th January
March 25	Full Council	Chairman of Council	Finances, expenditure budget 24/25 and council tax. Advertise the APM.	7 th February	11 th February

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Notes:

Each article should contain the meetings calendar.

Exact deadline dates for each article will be sent by the Assistant Clerk prior to the article being written.