



Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
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NOTES of the meeting of the **Events Working Group** held at 11:00 on Thursday 23rd May 2024 via MS Teams.

Present: Claire Majsai – Chair Helen Bedford – Councillor
Viv Aloy – Assistant Clerk Helen Valler – Assistant Clerk

APM review

Positives

Hall looked very good.

Speakers were interesting & the theme was relevant to our parish.

All but two Councillors attended.

There was a good supply of annual reports available.

No hostile questioning.

The feedback session on the post-its went well, no particular surprises.

Sound system: Cllr Sampson said that the hearing loop was very clear, and it was felt that the sound clarity generally in the room was much better on the “in house” sound system than it was last year on the portable PA.

Feedback:

- Verbally from an enthusiastic anonymous member of the public – “you are to be congratulated – I haven’t been to one of these meetings for years and this is so much better than they used to be...”
- Sarah “it went really well and was a really enjoyable evening”.
- Most people were positive about format and talks.
- People were pleased with the refreshments.

Negatives

Poor attendance - it was noted that Hurst Life failed to put the poster in May’s edition (despite the request being in bold print and being acknowledged by the team!), and that people are less likely to take an interest in the PC when everything is running smoothly.

Even members of relevant groups such as Hurst Rethink (who assisted us greatly with emailing their contact list and promoting on social media).

Some people left at the break.

The Sayers Common bus was not used (other than by Cllr Sampson).

Not many of the attendees spoke to the stall holders.

Somebody in the hall talking throughout the speeches, particularly in the second half, which was very distracting and disrespectful to the speaker.

Feedback:

- It was suggested that some people left because it wasn’t a “proper council meeting”.

Questionnaire

It was agreed that the questionnaire would remain live for a further week, Assistant Clerk Aloy will publicise this today via the usual channels. Some of the feedback could be used at the St Lawrence Fair.

Improvements / changes for next year

- No break – this would enable the meeting to finish earlier (possibly a shorter meeting would encourage more attendees) and stop people leaving halfway through.
- Shorter talks, which would make the meeting feel faster paced.
- Consider changing the name next year, to avoid confusion with the Annual Council meeting.
- Consider including an explanation of the difference between the two when publicising the event.

Theme ideas for 2025

Cllr Dyke wrote:

1. Food and drink. Could include the restaurants, coffee shops, off licences, butchers, bakers, greengrocer, etc. on the High Street and might help with building relationships with the traders and promoting the High Street. It could also include local producers, farmers, vineyards, growers, brewers, etc. to try to connect with the more rural community in our parish. There's also a lot of interest and misinformation around nutrition at the moment so may be someone could speak on that. People could be encouraged to come by offering the chance to with a Hampers hamper or a meal for two at Morleys, etc.
2. Sport and fitness. Could include local sports club, tennis, bowls, football, cricket, etc. Exercise classes that hire the parish spaces. Other facilities such as the Triangle and Centre for outdoor sports. Could also try to include the horsey community, there's quite a few stables in the parish. This could help build relationships with the clubs and support them in trying to get Mid Sussex to provide more pitches in the villages. It could try to help understand whether there really a desire for a polo pitch in the parish is and build connections with the more rural communities. People could be encouraged to come with the offer of free trial classes.

Cllr Baldey had also mentioned a food and drink theme on the night, as well as Health and Wellbeing (which could also include sports and fitness).

These ideas were all agreed to be positive and may give options for the coming two years, the logistics of each suggestion will be looked at over the coming months.

Additional Member

Cllr Dyke has expressed an interest in the working group, which will be discussed at Full Council this evening.

St Lawrence Fair

It was noted that the St Lawrence Fair is now just over 6 weeks away, Assistant Clerk Aloy will send a reminder to Councillors of the date and to consider what time they might be able to give at the Parish Council stand. The location of last year's plot was discussed, and it was suggested that we ask for a better plot this year if possible. Office staff will put the request forward.

Next meeting: 13th June 2024 at 11am via Teams.