



Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
Email: office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
Website: www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
Telephone: 01273 833264

Village Centre
Trinity Road
Hurstpierpoint
West Sussex BN6 9UY

Briefing Note

13. Hurst Meadows Autumn Cut 2024

For Finance, Governance & Estates Committee 20 June 2024

Introduction

Each year the Hurst Meadow Working Group reviews the previous year meadow cuts and establishes what cuts are required for the following year. In previous years, it was deemed necessary to carry out a cut and collect in the Spring in Buckwilly and one third of Fifteen Acre and then an autumn cut of Buckwilly, a second third of Fifteen Acre, Bellows Nose and a cut and leave of Hovelfield North (if required).

After reviewing the previous cut, the Hurst Meadows Working group have agreed to not cut any meadows this Springs, due to it not being needed and to encourage the wildflower to grow. This has already produced an impress show of flowers in Buckwilly, which we encourage the councillors to visit, if able. The Estates and Facilities Manager would be happy to arrange a tour of Hurst Meadows, when convenient with anyone who is interested.

The Working Group has also agreed to carry out the cut and collect of Buckwilly, Bellows Nose and a third of Fifteen Acre in September. The Fifteen Acre cut will be adjusted this year, the last few years a solid third of the meadows has been cut and collected, to improve diversity and create safe nesting areas for the skylarks, this year pockets of areas over the whole meadow will be cut (see below a rough map of the cuts).

Previous year



2024



The Pockets will be worked out with the contractor nearer the time of the cut and will be the equivalent of a third of the meadow.

The Heritage orchard will have its normal path cuts and in September a cut and collect of the whole site.

The Public right of Way will be cut twice as normal to prevent it from becoming overgrown and encourage users to use it.

In addition to the meadow cutting this year, we will be cutting Hovelfield South (Fat Pony field), in preparation for it's use as a Forest school area. We will be carrying out an initial cut and leave, so we can identify any risks to children and other users. The Working Group has decided to have this completed as soon as possible and we are awaiting a quote to complete these works. It may be possible to include this site in the cut and collect, using a portion of the Fifteen Acre pattern cut, however this will be evaluated nearer the time.

Proposal

The proposal is to appoint Greenscene Landscapes to carry out the following works in Hurst Meadow:

September 2024 Cuts

- Buckwilly – Cut & Collect.
- Bellows Nose – Cut & Collect.
- The equivalent of one third of Fifteen Acre pattern cut – Cut and Collect.
- The Orchard – Cut & Collect

Total Cost of **£6,200.00 plus VAT.**

Orchard Cuts

- 6 x Path cuts – Cut & Leave.

Total Cost of **£390.00 plus VAT.**

Hovelfield North (if requested)

- Strim Hovel field North.

Total Cost of **£460.00 plus VAT**

A Grand Total of **£7,050.00 plus VAT**

Conclusion

The Committee is asked to agree the appointment of Greenscene Landscapes to carry out the Hurst Meadow Autumn Cutting as stated above, at a **Total cost of £7,050.00 plus VAT.**

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee is asked to AGREE the appointment of Greenscene Landscapes to carry out the Hurst Meadows cut & Collect and Grass Maintenance for 2024 at a total cost of £7,050.00 plus VAT.