



Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
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Village Centre
Trinity Road
Hurstpierpoint
West Sussex BN6 9UY

Hurstpierpoint Wassail

Notes of the Informal Meeting on Friday 25 October at 12:30pm at The Village Centre, Trinity Road

Present: Cllr Claire Majsai, Jo Burke (Brighton Folk Choir), Viv Aloy (Assistant Clerk, H&SC PC)

1. **Date and time:** The date of the event was confirmed as Saturday 14th January, with a workshop in the Main Hall from 1pm-3pm, followed by the main event between 5pm and 7pm.
 2. **Refreshments:** It was agreed that teas, coffees and biscuits would be provided by the Parish Council for the workshop. Hurst Rethink may have a proposal regarding refreshments for the evening Wassail, advised to approach the office.
 3. **Advertising:** Cllr Majsai will put something in for the December Hurst Life magazine and again for January. Also to be publicised via noticeboards, social media (possibly to include short video(s) of the choir in action) and the PC Website, as well as direct communication with relevant groups such as HurstFolk and other local music groups/choirs. Consider other newsletters. Viv Aloy to create a poster/flyer as last year, maintain a sign-up sheet and promote via usual channels.
 4. **School:** Possibility of engaging with St Lawrence school was discussed. Jo Burke to contact the school to offer, if they are receptive, then the Parish Council would look to fund Jo's time for this, estimated cost £200.
 5. **Workshop:** Following feedback last year the workshop will take place later, from 1pm – 3pm, closer to the evening wassail, while still allowing a gap for participants to get something to eat and change into warmer clothes before the evening event.

Song sheets can be printed by Viv Aloy in the PC office as previously, spares to be taken to the evening event.
 6. **Ditchling Morris:** Logistics of finding somewhere for Morris dancers were discussed. A flat hard surface is required, so could not dance in the Millennium Gardens or at the orchard. Various options were discounted due to safety / requirements for road closures. Possible that a smaller contingent could attend and find somewhere suitable, further investigation required.
 7. **Evening Wassail:** The meeting point will be by the Millennium Gardens benches from 5pm, before singing to the big apple tree. Jo Burke will bring the sticks again for the dance as this was very popular, especially with the children. It was noted that the arrival at the orchard last year was a bit of an "anticlimax", hopefully more of a ceremony / toast to the tree / story of the tree man on arrival. Cllr Majsai will assess the orchard/trees to see if it is felt that we could go into the orchard area this year (may depend on numbers on the day).
 8. **Ground condition:** Concerns were raised over how boggy some of the area is already, particularly the bridge into Buckwilly. Viv Aloy will discuss with Estates & Facilities Manager. Ground conditions and weather forecast to be monitored as we approach the date of the wassail.
 9. **Additional Logistics:** Storage of instrument case & costumes at the Village Centre was discussed, ideally better if they can be stored with The Hop Tub or in vehicles as there are hirers in the evening at the centre.
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