



Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
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NOTES of the meeting of the **Events Working Group** held at 11:00 on Thursday 16th January 2025 via Teams.

Present: Claire Majsai – Chair
Susan Dyke - Councillor
Viv Aloy – Assistant Clerk
Helen Bedford – Councillor
Gemma Porteous – Assistant Clerk

Review of the Wassail

Cllr Majsai gave an overview of the Wassail, which took place on 11th January.

- The event was a great success with approximately 40 at the singing workshop and 150 at the heritage orchard. Cllr Dyke queried whether there were many locals attending as there seemed to be a lot of people from Brighton – it was noted that many of these were from the Brighton Folk Choir, and that bringing people into the village was a good thing as they were using local pubs and restaurants.
- This year was very much a collaborative event with The Hurst Rethink, who supplied stewards and sourced the uplighters. These were particularly successful and the highlight for many who attended. It was suggested that we investigate the cost of purchasing lights in future rather than renting and that next year posters should also be given to traders to put up as there had been a few comments from residents that they were not aware the event was happening.
- A first aider was also booked this year to address the risk from the cold weather for slips, and difficulty of emergency services access to the Meadows.
- Wrap around events at the Hop Tub helped add to the atmosphere in the village, these were primarily arranged by Jo Burke of the Brighton Folk Choir, and her contacts and separate to the Parish Council run main event.

Actions

- Assistant Clerk Aloy will arrange a meeting between Lucy Bennet from Hurst Rethink and Jo Burke from the Folk Choir to review this year's event and discuss how the event might be run moving forward, including moving the date later in January – it being straight after the Christmas Holidays meant it was a struggle to get it organised.

Community Events Forum

- The date for this is confirmed as Wednesday 29th January at Court Bushes between 10am-12pm.
- The event will run as per previous years with attendees given an opportunity to speak about their organisation and/or projects.
- This year the event will run in the Function Room because the nursery have exclusive use of the Club Lounge, and the event had really outgrown that space anyway. Because of this it will no longer run alongside the Melting Pot Café so the Parish Council will supply and serve the teas/coffees and biscuits on the day.
- With the Wassail potentially moving later in January 2026, the timing of the forum was discussed. Moving it later into the year means it would be closer to the APM which often has a similar networking theme. It was agreed to return to November for future events.

Actions

Assistant Clerk Aloy to publicise again on Facebook / Website and put up posters for the event.

Annual Parish Meeting

- It was noted that the meeting has moved to **13th May** to avoid being in the same week as the Annual Council Meeting
- The theme will be Health & Wellbeing, and it was agreed there would be one or two speakers at no longer than 10 minutes each – potentially these may be identified at the Community Forum.
- The reintroduction of the “1 minute pitch” and opportunity to have a stall/table for health and wellbeing groups and businesses to speak about what they do, how they benefit the health and wellbeing of the community, and how to access their services.
 - Possible groups were discussed at length and Ass Clerk Aloy has made a note of all those mentioned.
- Shorter event this year with no break, but time allowed for networking/circulating the stalls. Exact timings TBC.
- Bus from Sayers Common to be arranged again but if not used will be discontinued for 2026. This to be stressed to the SCVS and wider community via usual channels, including our Sayers Common ward councillors.
- Consideration to be given to alternative names for the event. It was noted that many residents associate the word “parish” with the church. It was also discussed that there is confusion between the “Annual Parish Meeting” and the “Annual Council Meeting”.
- Posters and flyers for the event to be given to High Street businesses to help promote it.

Actions

- Assistant Clerk Aloy to generate and circulate some options for a strapline.
- Attendees at the Community Event Forum to be considered for suitable speakers for the longer 10 minute slots at the APM.
- Assistant Clerks Aloy & Porteous to compile a contact list of appropriate health and wellbeing organisations, clubs, groups and businesses who might be approached to deliver a “1 minute pitch”.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting to take place at 11am on Thursday 13th February via MS Teams.