



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

Hurst Meadows Working Group Meeting

6th February 2025

Minutes

Apologies: Allan Brown and Cllr Claire Majsai

1. Grants

- a. **Rural Payment Agency update** – Maps and payment details have been added. Registration is now complete.
- b. **Ellie's Email, site meeting request and grant option meeting** – SW to respond to Ellie to propose that once the Criteria is released, HMWG are to review the criteria at a Pre meeting, to discuss options and agree on what we want to do. Then arrange a site meeting with Ellie and go through these options, then once Ellie has digested the site information arrange a sit-down meeting to go through the grants available to us. SW to confirm the cost for these meetings.

2. **Cycleway Consultation update** - We have been informed by WSCC that the consultation to change the designation of the footpath between St George's Lane and Highfield Drive is planned to be released in late February 2025. Once details are supplied, the office is to post on social media and the Website requesting support. Highlighting that this will lead to the path being improved 100%.

3. **Lost Woods latest – email from Bob Epsom 20.01.25.** -

- a. George apologised for not doing this yet, but she will respond to Bob's email today. SW to update Bob on his last email received 5th February 2025. We are happy for them to visit Wilderness wood but must be accompanied by either office staff or George. we are keen to support coppicing works within Wilderness wood and Tilley's Copse as previously discussed.
- b. SW is to make Bob aware that we are aware of the path through Tilley's Copse, making him aware of possible all weather path discussions with WSCC Public right of way team and ask if he is aware of any ancient woodlands with all weather paths through them that we could compare this site to? As we have concerns about materials that may be brought in to complete this path.



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SW is to investigate with PROW if there has been any progress with the proposed path improvements through Tilley's Copse as we would like to be engaged in the construction process, as this is our ancient woodland.

4. **Nectar-rich hedgerow orchard – email from Donna Willis 2.02.25** – Changes are needed to the management plan; the group will need what they want to do with this hedge. SW is to speak to Martin Sadler to see what he wants from the hedge, work out what the hedge is made of? This info is to be brought back to the Group in March 2025. If we decide to cut it back, what height should we reduce it too and how will it be managed? manage the hedge.

5. Volunteers

- a. **Recent work on tree whips**, this event went well, with a good turnout. All rubbish has now been removed from site. It looks much better, and George will supply some photos of before and after, which Malcolm and Claire can use in their next Hurst Life Article. Claire is to be asked, do we now the figures of what was removed?
 - b. **Butterfly volunteers meeting March** – premeeting is to be booked in March and they are hoping to use the Conference room as last year and will start surveying again in April.
6. **Hedge Laying** – The South of England Hedge laying Society are to be invited to inspect the Hedges in Buckwilly and Hovelfield to determine if they can be laid yet or provide a timeframe for when they can be laid. A resident of Layton fields is to be reminded that the hedge was originally meant to be planted on the estates land as part of the planning conditions, and if achieved could have been managed by the Layton fields management company, however the parish council was forced to plant this hedge on our land and therefore are required to manage it to a proper standard. This requires the hedge to grow to a required height before it can be laid. Once laid it will be managed to the specified height in our management plan.
 7. **Wooden steps Latchetts Lane** - Possibly referring to the broken step, SW is aware and is arranging repairs, to replace wooden strut, fill in the tops and compact down.

8. Any Other Business

Management plan

- a. A new version is to be created as Version 2 running 2025 to 2030, so we don't lose the V1 copy.



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- b. Criteria from Rural Payment Agency will guide the new scope and updates.
- c. Accessibility works to improve site should be included. Cycleway extension and all-weather paths in the future, including possible improvements to the PROW to create a accessible walk that loops around fifteen acre/Walnut tree field, up St George's Lane and back along the Cycle path. We can investigate possible grants for this.
- d. Make sure we label the hedge and ditch on South end of Buckwilly by path access is ours. Make sure the management plan highlights who is responsible for hedges and ditches especially around housing estates.

Volunteers – Lost woods coppicing courses, SW to approach Bob Epsom, can he confirm the costings, the Parish Council will put something out on social media and website, to find someone interested in the coppices course in March 2025. We are keen to get a team of volunteers interested in Woodland Management, most importantly someone to lead these works.