



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

Hurst Meadows Working Group Meeting

3rd April 2025

Minutes

Attendees: Cllr Malcolm Llewellyn (ML), Cllr Claire Majsai (CM), Allan Brown (AB). and Stephen Witchell (SW).

Apologies: Dr George Judd (GJ),

1. Grants

- a. Thursday 24 April 11.00 - meeting with Ellie Mathieson from Batchelor Monkhouse to show her Hurst Meadows, what we have done so far and why and the grants that we feel are relevant for us, utilising GJ's list. Meet at Buckwilly noticeboard.
- b. SW is to share GJ's Grant action list with Ellie Mathieson prior to the site meeting , minus any grants we believe are not relevant to Hurst Meadows.
- c. The management plan is in the process of being updated.

2. Hedge laying update

- a. Buckwilly is at the right age or near to for being laid and is a priority for laying.
- b. Hovelfield is a couple of years behind, so not worth laying yet, but no harm showing the Hedge laying society recommended contractor.
- c. A Contractor had been contacted to view the Hedges in Hurst Meadows, which are planned to be laid, SW is to contact the contractor to confirm a date for a site visit.
- d. It was agreed that we should have some planned active management of the hedgerow on the Eastern boundary of Buckwilly which borders the footpath as this is a PC responsibility This could involve coppicing the hazel to produce stakes.
- e. SW is to ask the hedge laying contractor advice on using coppiced stakes from onsite coppicing works. Would they do it themselves or can we do this for them? What do they require?

3. Owl box



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- a. CM to Contact Laurie Jackson , is it the right location for an Owl box and who is going to put it up?
- b. After advice, SW is to contact the Fauna and Florna group to see if they would be able to put an Owl box in a tree of our choosing. They do this at other sites, have suitable insurance and equipment so are considered the right group to ask for assistance.

4. Community Action Day Works

- a. Hurst College have confirmed that their Community Action Day this year will be held on 20th June 2025
- b. SW has been asked to suggest the students work on the PROW 62HU by Hurst College, by removing the plastic tree guards from the hedge that runs along the Public Right of Way as they are no longer needed. This Hedge was planted by the College and needs the plastic guards to be removed.
- c. One small job that the students could complete for us is to remove some tree guards on a hedge in Hovelfield, which were missed last year.
- d. Another job would be to walk the village on pavements only and conduct a litter pick. Especially countryside areas and public rights of way.
- e. The Group has been asked to consider other practical works that the students could achieve and advise SW so he can update the school ahead of the Community Action Day, so they can allocate students, plan and complete risk assessments etc.

5. Local Lost Woods project

- a. SW to investigate which woods by Bearstokes, New Way Lane are being used for this local Lost Wood Project.
- b. The Hurst Meadows Working group is disappointed with what we are getting back from Lost Woods. SW to look up our last correspondence from Bob Epsom.

6. Any other Business

- a. The new paths installed in Buckwilly and Fifteen Acre to remove muddy areas are completed and looking good. They were Installed by Barcombe Landscapes earlier this week. CM asked that the vegetation cut back for works, to be left to grow back as it was a good habitat for wildlife.
- b. CM is considering experimenting with trimming a few Brambles to stop spreading. This could be a volunteer project in September.
- c. No Mow May, Hurst Rethink not promoting this year. Will be suggesting a mosaic approach, some of lawn cut and some left. SW to ask Barcombe to



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- leave a triangle by the gate and one at the other end at Court Bushes and leave until September.
- d. Bird walk planned. CM has emailed Laurie Jackson again.
 - e. The latest butterfly group meeting was successful and well-attended Three new butterfly survey volunteers have signed up in response to our publicity.

Meeting ended at 1130am