



Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
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Telephone: 01273 833264

Village Centre
Trinity Road
Hurstpierpoint
West Sussex BN6 9UY

Hurst Meadows Working Group Meeting

Minutes

Attendees

Cllr Malcolm Llewellyn (ML), Cllr Claire Majsai (CM) and Stephen Witchell (SW).

Apologies

Allan Brown, Dr Georgina Judd.

Conference Room, Village Centre, 1015am 8th May 2025

1. Hedge laying update

- a. Stephen Mockford (hedge layer) is to contact us in Sept 2026 to arrange the laying of the hedge on the Northern Boundary of Layton fields in late 2026. The other hedges around the eastern boundary of Layton Fields require at least another 3 to 4 years growth before they can be laid.
- b. The HMWG is to discuss whether there are any other hedges that he could lay. One possibility is the shared hedge in Bellow Nose. The HMWG will come up with some options and discuss with Stephen Mockford next year.
- c. SW to chase up UKPN to cut hedges in Buckwilly.

2. Owl Box Request

- a. Laurie Jackson (Ecologist) has advised us that it is not ideal to have owl box in the requested location. Owls can become aggressive when nesting especially in areas that a group of people might form i.e. the wood sculpture. As a result, it is too great a risk to users to have the owl box in this location. A path would be a better option, and we will contact the Fauna and Flora group to ask, where they believe the best location would be in the surrounding area. RSPB website has more info.
- b. SW to go back to resident and inform them we are looking for other locations, Close to their property, cycle path or boundary St George's green.
- c. SW to contact Michael at fauna and flora where would he suggest the best spot in this area.

3. Bird Walk

- a. There was a good turnout of 10 people on the bird walk. 24 species of birds were identified by sight or sound. The birds are responding well to the scrub growth and appears to be a positive sign. The numbers appear to be going up.



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4. Grants Update

- a. SW has found some S106 agreement which he is to send to ML and CM. we are waiting confirmation from MSDC that these are the correct agreements.

5. Community Action Day

- a. The jobs identified for the Community Action Day is Litter picking and the removal of tree guards missed on other occasions.

6. Orchard open day feedback

- a. The open day went very well with 32 visitors, Martin Sadler was assisted by our work experience volunteer.

7. New Paths

- a. Contractor to be asked to return to fix path into fifteen acres, due to complaints. The path is missing the fines, is uneven and just laid on the surface, which is not to the same standard as other paths they installed for us on site. The gate post into Fifteen acre was also damaged.
- b. SW is to arrange a site meeting to get this rectified.

8. Any Other Business

- a. We will need to review the banks on St George's Lane.
- b. It has been suggested we investigate adding a new path on the north boundary of Bellows Nose into Buckwilly by old pile along the ditch. The HMWG is to discuss further.
- c. We need to review the scrubs in Fifteen Acre and Edgerley Meadow and work out some control around them, possibly strim around and cut back new runners.
- d. Do we need to insert any new cut areas in fifteen acre or just maintain the existing patches. The HMWG to discuss further a find a good balance. Drone aerial footage would be helpful. We are to investigate local drone pilots.
- e. We are to put pressure on Lost woods project to use our sites and do something in our woodland, as part of the agreement. SW is to get veteran tree data from woodland trust after survey.
- f. CM is to carry out another walk around Hurst Meadows this summer for Councillors.
- g. The new benches are working well for people with mobility issues in the meadows.
- h. Land owned by formerly Latchetts lane house, college lane, have cut down an area of scrub land including an area believed to be managed by WSCC along Latchett's Lane. SW to investigate and inform WSCC and planning of this cutting back.
- i. Maintenance Officer to be asked to place trunks on the verge by flint wall on St George's Lane.