



Easebourne Parish Council

Community & Environment Committee

Minutes of Meeting held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 27th July 2022 in Easebourne Park, Wheelbarrow Castle, Easebourne

Present: I Milne (IM), M Noble (MN), E Roberts Grimsby (ERG),

In attendance: Parish Clerk S Hurr (SH)

1 Public Question Time: No members of the public were present.

2 Apologies and Reasons for Absence: Cllr J Charlesworth (JC) due to a prior engagement. Cllr A Thomas (AT) was absent without apology.

3 Declarations of Interest: None

4 Minutes and actions of meeting:

Carry- Over Actions: IM to identify locations and seek permission from Cowdray Estate to install the spare salt bins. AT will then inform West Sussex County Council (WSCC) of the locations for filling as part of their winter maintenance regime.

Carry-over Action: MN to email County Councillor Tom Richardson to gain his views on speed reduction initiatives (employing Speed Indicator Devices to link with pedestrian crossing lights which turn red if a vehicle has exceeded the speed limit).

Carry-over Action: MN to speak to the Midhurst Green Volunteers and IM to speak to FREP regarding a potential joint project to complete bramble cutting and grass seed sowing on the Dodsley Lane banks.

The minutes of the meeting on 13th April 2022 were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

5 Verbal/Written Panel/Project Group Reports

a) Communications (Volunteers and Staffing):

MN reported that he had received notes from JC in relation to the work she had recently undertaken. JC had drafted a written article regarding the compliments received from the Royal Society of the Prevent of Accidents (ROSPA) inspector who completed the annual inspection on the playground, which will be used for the Parish Council page in the next edition of the United Magazine. JC had also carried out an audit of the Council website and made a number of suggestions such updating the title boxes on the home page to reflect the current work and focus of the Council, introduce an events page, information about where matters can be reported or advice gained, and also consider how the site would be viewed from a phone, as a significant number of residents are more likely to view the website by this method. EGR also suggested that an 'environmental' page was added to the site, and cited the Peterfield Town

Council website, from which a separate site could be accessed. MN confirmed that the Council would require assistance from the Website/IT contactor Richard Green Web Design, to implement the improvements.

MN had received the Picnic in the Park information leaflets from the printers which were in a similar format to previous years so would be familiar to residents. These will be posted via Midhurst Local, with the remainder of properties in the parish not covered by Midhurst Local receiving a hand-delivered leaflet from Councillors.

ERG reported that the Parish Environment Group (PEG) chaired by District Council Francis Hobbs (FH) had been very active, with the drive for awareness amongst the residents of the three Parishes (Lodsworth, Heyshott, and Easebourne). This will, in the first instance be undertaken by as much face-to-face activity as possible, and a booklet containing information and the opportunity to make a number of pledges with tear-off slips was in production. A draft version of the booklet will be ready for comment by 9th August 2022 with a plan for the final version to be delivered to households in late August/early September 2022. The group will introduce Green Neighbour Awards for those who have made a significant contribution to 'green'/environmentally friendly initiatives.

ERG further explained her attendance at the Midhurst Cycling Action (MAC) group meeting at which the Greenway Cycle initiative beginning with Easebourne to Midhurst had been discussed. ERG with FH are also due to meet with Jonathan Russell, Chief Executive at Cowdray Estate, and Nick MacDonald who will be driving their Sustainability Charter, on 12th August 2022 to discuss cycling access. Alister Linton-Crook (ALC), Cycling Project Officer at South Downs National Park had also explained plans to change gates/kissing-gates to allow easier access for cyclists. FH and ALC also have a meeting planned with City & Country, developers at King Edward VII, to discuss cycling access to the development.

ERG also reported that Cllr Judith Macdonald-Lawson (JML) will be working with parish groups to encourage green volunteering. ERG had also been requested by PEG to write to the Easebourne CE Primary School Headteacher to raise awareness and was due to meet with the member of school staff taking responsibility for this matter.

ERG confirmed that PEG were meeting fortnightly and were next due to meeting 4th August 2022 with a current focus on a launch plan for their initiatives.

b) Easebourne Park:

IM reported that the ROSPA playground inspection did not contain too many significant issues. The reported matters regarding the dens, trails and stones had been resolved. Some further issues raised would require more involved replacement work including the refurbishment of the very popular and well-used zip wire. IM suggested that the next annual inspection is requested in April, as the summer months were proving difficult in terms of securing contractors for repair work, and necessary replacement parts.

IM confirmed that the temporary toilet was being serviced, and that the facility was being used.

IM also confirmed that Artisans of Wood would be replacing The Roundhouse sedum roof with cedar tiles due to its failure to thrive. Cowdray Estate may be in a position to supply the necessary wood for the tiles.

Actions: IM to obtain details regarding the volume of wood required for the cedar tiles, and MN to contact Cowdray Estate to make the request for wood.

c) **Emergencies & Winter Planning:** West Sussex County Council had requested completion of the salt audit, which SH had forwarded to AT.

d) **Footpaths:** Nothing to report at this time.

e) **Highways Panel:** ERG reported that with the support of JML they had produced a report (provided at July full Council meeting) with suggestions as to the locations for improved and more aesthetically appropriate directional signage, which would also aid traffic calming as it would indicate to motorists that they were in a residential area. The next stage in this project was for AT to secure permissions from WSCC to trial a sign. It was agreed that support may be required from County Councillor Tom Richardson (TR) with the project. The quotations previously received for the production of the signs would now need to be revised due to the time lapse since receipt. ERG explained that the appearance of the signage would need to be agreed.

Action: MN to contact AT regarding seeking permission from WSCC, and also potentially contact TR for support.

6 **Proposals to full Council:** None, but the minutes of the meeting will be provided at the next meeting of the full Council on 14th September 2022.

7 **Matters of Report (information only, not for decision):** None

8 **Date of Next Meeting:** 7.00pm, Wednesday 21st September 2022

Meeting closed at 7.59pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman