
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5th MARCH 2024 AT 7.30 PM AT THE STEYPNING CENTRE

Present: Cllrs I Alexander (Chair), S Alexander, Johnson, Lloyd, and Hanson.

Clerk: John Fullbrook

Members of the public: 2

Meeting Commenced : 7.35 pm

DRAFT MINUTES

C/23/70 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

70.1 Apologies received from Cllrs Sharp, Young, Norcross and Linfield.

ACTIONS

C/23/71 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

71.1 None

C/23/72 QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR {in summary}

72.1.1 **Q** – Roger Brown – *Can there be consideration for a more permanent and substantial solution to the muddy quagmire surface of a path that goes through the first 10 meters of the Community Orchard on the MPF?*

72.1.2 **A** – The Chairman – *We do have the entrances of the MPF on next year's budget, some of which is to improve signage, but also, we are looking at the possible improvement of entrance pathway surfaces*

72.1.3 *The Clerk added that in past years there had been a spreading of woodchips to alleviate the slippery nature of the surfaces, and indeed there had been some spread earlier in the season this year. More permanent solutions need to be avoided situations where stray stones may interfere with grass cutting, but clearly this can be brought back for further discussion at a future meeting.*

CLERK

72.1.4 *Cllrs Hanson and S Alexander then put forward some ideas for possible solutions.*

C/23/73 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

73.1 To agree 6th February draft minutes. Cllr I Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr S Alexander to agree as a true and fair record, the draft minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on the 6th of February 2024, plus appended document concerning Armistice Day arrangements. **Agreed**

C/23/74 MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS - These items were taken as read.

74.1 Clerk to progress Vicarage Lane and Jarvis Lane TRO's - **Actioned/ See item 76.1 & 76.2**

74.2 Clerk's office to set up Steypning Street sign What's App group - **Actioned**

74.3 Letters/communications concerning progress of White Bridge link project sent- **Actioned/ See item 76.3**

74.4 Cllr Finnegan to update on Fletchers Croft Car Park long stay status & gain support from SPC – **Actioned**

74.5 Clerk to order finger post equipment as per agreed details - **Actioned**

- 74.6** Clerk to continue to update on SPC Play Area maintenance programme – **See item 75.2**
- 74.7** Further discussion required on Abbey Road ‘Open Day’ details and event plan - **See item 75.1**
- 74.8** Clerk to instruct contractor to complete remaining Hedgerow scope of works for Spring ‘24 - **Actioned**
- 74.9** Clerk to relay unsuccessful licence application result to Burger Van proprietor, and Cricket Club - **Actioned**
- 74.10** Deputy Clerk to process Pizza Van MPF licence application - **Actioned**
- 74.11** Clerk to respond to Allotment Association communication - **Actioned**
- 74.12** Clerk to progress positively, the HDC plans to help secure Fletchers Croft open space - **See item 75.6**
- 74.13** Possible installation of a new refuse bin at Abbey Road Open Space - **See item 75.1**
- 74.14** Pathway improvements to Abbey Road undertaken - **Actioned**
- 74.15** Clerk to arrange Digger hire for Abbey Road Pond works as and when required – **See item 75.1**

C/23/75 COMMUNITY MATTERS AND OPEN SPACE PROJECTS

- | | | |
|---------------|--|--------------|
| 75.1.1 | Abbey Road Volunteers and Steyning Community Orchard combined update - Roger Brown reported on both items and was supported by his own written report via supporting papers. First, he drew attention to the Abbey Road ‘Open Day’ planning, which had included agreement from the organising committee that A4 and A5 posters and leaflets should be printed (as per tabled doc.) to help with publicity, if agreed by this committee to do so, at a meagre cost of approx. £25. The leaflet to be dropped off at approx. 150 local addresses. Cllr S Alexander proposed, seconded by Cllr I Alexander that SPC support the Abbey Road open day with ‘Flyers’ produced at a cost of no more than £30. Agreed | CLERK |
| 75.1.2 | Members then discussed publicity for this event via ‘Your Steyning’. Roger was willing to complete the article himself, and previous agreements allowed for no necessity for a new motion to do so. Roger also reported that work from the volunteer group was continuing to proceed exceptionally well. | |
| 75.1.3 | The Community Orchard Group had been running for 10 years now. During this period nearly 50 trees had been donated by resident families/ groups and planted by the SCO. Limits as to how large the Orchards should be, were agreed in previous Community meetings, however due to gaps forming at both the MPF and Abbey Road due to peripheral scrub clearance works, Roger was minded to ask for permission for an amended request to a later committee. | CLERK |
| 75.2 | Annual Play Inspection Report ongoing maintenance plan. The Clerk updated that recently the Play Surface moss, mud and lichen removal works had gone very well with this being supported by ‘before’ and ‘after’ pictures. Normans’ Way basketball backboard and ring have been delivered and will shortly be used to help renew this play park. The MPF swing renewal needs to be completed after a period of dry weather. Indeed persistent poor weather has delayed maintenance plans this year. | CLERK |
| 75.3.1 | Annual Allotment ‘Clear up’ day arrangements. Details as per supporting paper. Cllr I Alexander proposed, seconded by Cllr Hanson that SPC has the Allotment Clear up day on the 13 th April, start time 10am, finish 2pm, with a reserve date of the 27 th April in case of bad weather on the 13 th . Agreed | CLERK |
| 75.3.2 | Cllr I Alexander proposed, seconded by S Alexander that SPC allow the office to spend up to £2,000 on skips for the Allotment clear up period, Agreed
Clerk to check if the Skip firm recycles contents. | CLERK |

- 75.4 Request for enhanced grass cutting at WSCC ground - surrounding Steyning 'Welcome sign'.** **CLERK**
Members discussed once more the area in question, and the fact that each additional cut by the existing WSCC contractors would cost £57. Cllr I Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Johnson that SPC do not engage the {WSCC} contractors to do the extra 10 cuts. **Agreed 4 For, 1 Abstained**
- 75.5 Installation of a litter bin at Abbey Road open space and also to consider dog fouling issues in the Steyning Parish.** **CLERK**
The Chair dealt with two agenda items at the same time. Rather, the Chair suggested this could be a longer-term project to take stock of all Litter bin provision throughout Steyning, as litter bins can be used for dog waste, provided the bags are properly wrapped and tied. Also added signage could be agreed which could be placed on each bin to promote an avoidance of dog fouling. Cllr Hanson **proposed, seconded** by Cllr I Alexander that the Chair and the Clerk will work on litter bin labels, and where to put bins in Steyning. **Agreed**
It was also suggested that at the Abbey Road open day – residents are asked about their preference in terms of the position of a proposed new bin installation. Roger was also asked to provide the Clerk, if possible, the SCO list of memorial tree donations, to assist with a possible future compilation and mapping of parish wide tribute/memorial installations. **Roger**
- 75.6 Planned security developments at Fletchers Croft 'Open Space' from HDC.** **CLERK**
The clerk updated on draft plans which had arrived from HDC on the 5th March. There is to be a meeting on site which will include 'Festival' reps in the near future. Members were briefed on the two options. The Clerk was asked to continue to represent the residents/ members wishes at this meeting
- 75.7 Future project aspirations for the Community Committee.** **CLERK**
Cllr I Alexander spoke in support of recent project initiatives such as the identification of below standard Steyning Road Sign What's App group, and suggested it be extended to include blocked drains and pothole identification. Cllr I Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr S Alexander that Community committee requests SPC Full Council considers sending a strong letter to West Sussex highways department about the situation regarding Steyning's Potholes, Drains and Road Signs. **Agreed.** Information to be identified on the What's App group.
- C/23/76 HIGHWAYS**
- 76.1 Vicarage Lane Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) application.** **CLERK**
The Clerk confirmed the submission had been responded to positively by the West Sussex Highways officer in charge, indeed as per the supporting papers, there was a suggestion to add further restrictions to avoid inappropriate 'displacement issues' arising. Cllr I Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Hanson that SPC accepts the {amended} submission from West Sussex Highways with the exception that the layby outside Penfold Hall should remain as a single yellow line, not changed to double yellows, {to continue to allow loading/ off-loading}, and also propose that the double yellow lines that are going up Cripps Lane are repainted because they have disappeared. **Agreed**
The Clerk also to mention in communication about the Car Park designation changing to 'Long Stay' and that this will help alleviate any displacement issues.
- 76.2 To consider support for a Jarvis Lane TRO.** **CLERK**
Cllr Sharp and the Clerk had compiled a document with assistance from residents, in support of the proposed TRO application for Jarvis Lane. Members considered its details, and made remarks about it being a comprehensive analysis. WSCC Cllr Paul Linehan had already 'fully endorsed the decision to seek a TRO in respect of Jarvis Lane'. Cllr I Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Hanson that solution one as per supporting document is accepted as a good way forward to help resolve the traffic problems on Jarvis Lane. **Agreed**
- 76.2.1**
- 76.2.2.** Cllr I Alexander **proposed seconded** by Cllr S Alexander that solution two as per Supporting Paper is given SPC support and ask that the clerk progress with the TRO application. **Agreed**

76.2.3	Cllr I Alexander proposed, seconded by Cllr A Alexander that SPC ask some highways engineers to come up with a solution to deal with HGV's continued use of Jarvis Lane {despite current signage warning against it}, so that the solution can be brought back to this committee. Agreed	CLERK
76.3	The White Bridge link project. The Chair updated members on an exchange of communications between the WSCC Highways department, and himself and the Clerk. The last request was to ask the officer in charge, if WSCC might be receptive to the idea of a joint parishes 'Community Ownership Fund' application be submitted to help with match funding to assist with the process of a rebuild. No reply received as yet.	CLERK
76.4	To consider trimming back of Steyning parish twittens, and augment Steyning footpath surfaces Members were asked to add to the What's App group, pathways that had been submerged by earth and vegetation and twittens that are being restricted by out-of-control vegetation, so that a future submission to WSCC, including the evidence gathered, could be considered.	CLERK
C/23/77 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE		
77.1	To accept the I & E Reports. Cllr I Alexander proposed, seconded by Cllr S Alexander that the Community Income and Expenditure Reports for January '24 be accepted as a true and fair record. Agreed	
C/23/78 PROGRESS REPORT – All the following items were described as ongoing		
78.1	<i>Clerk to obtain permissions for movement of SPC Notice board adjacent High St. car park- Ongoing</i>	CLERK
78.2	<i>Mouse Lane drainage W Party to be convened in April – Ongoing</i>	CLERK
78.3	<i>Dog Fouling Clearance Trial period to be discussed April 2024 - Ongoing</i>	CLERK
78.4	<i>MPF entrance development ideas to be brought back to this committee after next working party To be convened in April - Ongoing</i>	CLERK
78.5	<i>Chandlers Way Pocket Park W Party to reconvene in April – Ongoing</i>	CLERK
78.6	<i>Clerk to set up a working party to discuss HDC plans for EV Charging points - Ongoing</i>	CLERK
78.7	<i>Lost Woods project – Landowners to be encouraged to 'sign-up' with working party members to visit sites - Ongoing</i>	CLERK
78.8	<i>Virgin Broadband installation legacy to be brought back to this committee – Ongoing</i>	CLERK
78.9	<i>Horsham DC to respond to requests for meeting with SPC Car Park Plan – Ongoing</i>	CLERK
78.10	<i>Clerk to engage Tree consultants to complete exploratory works near the Cricket nets – works programmed for the 6th March - Ongoing</i>	CLERK
78.11	<i>Clerk to organise installation replacement of recycling bin adjacent Bus Shelter – contractor to Confirm - Ongoing</i>	CLERK
78.12	<i>Clerk to have finger post equipment installed when delivered to SPC – Ongoing</i>	CLERK
78.13	<i>Community Engagement committee to consider 'Your Steyning article' to promote Abbey Road open day – Ongoing</i>	CLERK
78.14	<i>Remembrance Day service arrangements to be discussed at July Community meeting – Ongoing</i>	CLERK

C/23/79 INFORMATION / CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

- 79.1

Creating local cycling & walking infrastructure for our area. - This paper was passed to the Clerk from the 'Active Travel' group in association with the Community Partnership but after the agenda had been published. It was recommended that F&GP consider that there be a presentation from the group at the next available Full Council meeting.

CLERK
- 79.2

The Large A283 Sign. The Clerk has discussed with WSCC Cllr Linehan the cost of replacement – Being approx. £3,000.

C/23/80 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 2nd April 2024 at 7.30 pm.

Meeting ended at 9.58 pm

Signed by the Chair: Date: 2nd April 2024

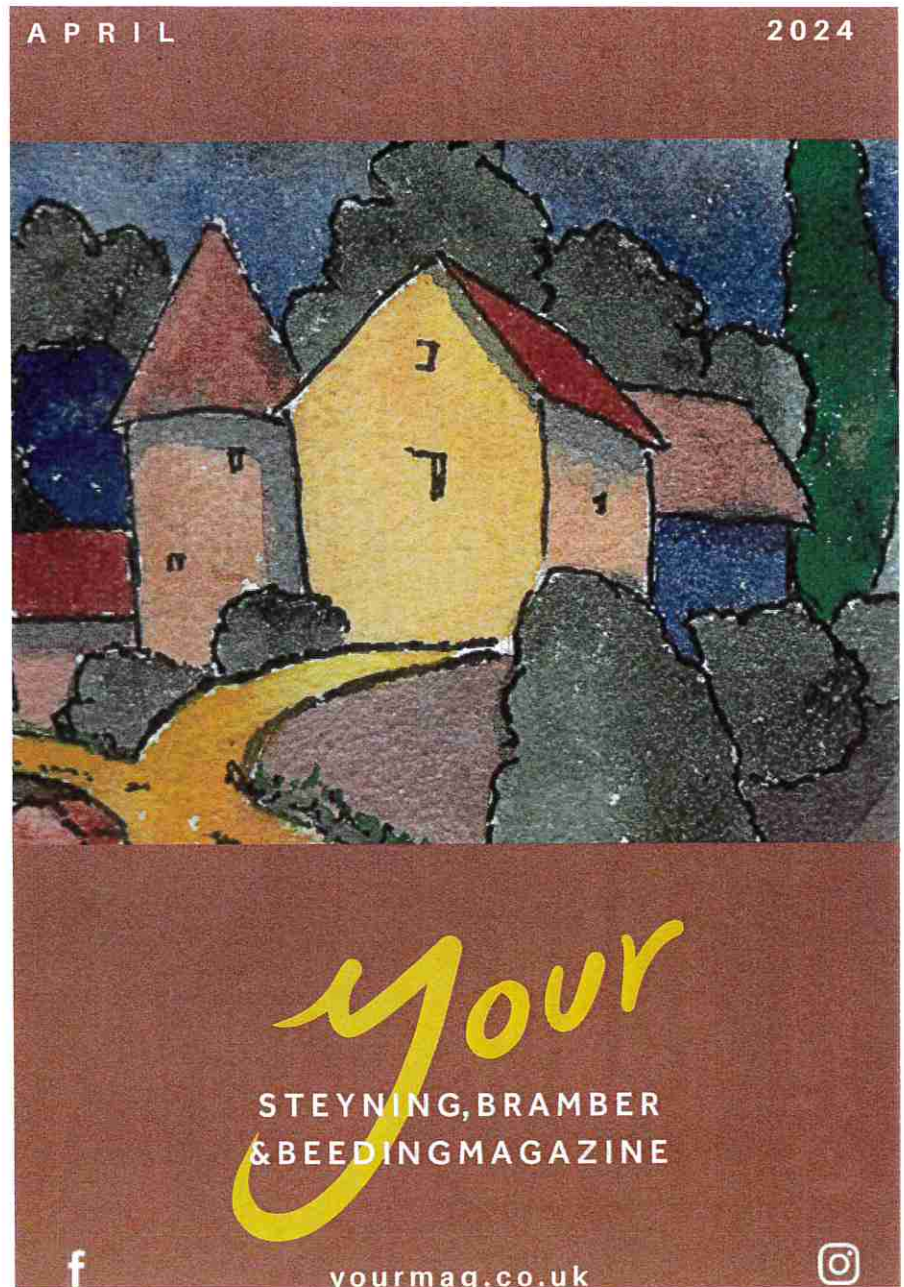
A recording of this meeting can be found using the following link:
https://youtu.be/tOXO_ZgtWpQ

Abbey Road Open Day

Item 6.1

'Your Steyning' Promo

Compiled by Roger Brown



Abbey Road Conservation Area Open Day. Sat 20th April 11:00 - 15:00

Tucked away behind the Church and next to Gatewick House grounds is the Abbey Rd Conservation Area. facebook.com/ARCVsteyning/

We are having an Open Day here on 20th April to showcase this 4-acre site and its wonderful mix of habitats, including stream, pond, woodland, orchard, scrub and meadow.

Our volunteers and other experts will be on hand to explain what we have here, and to answer any questions you may have.

We will have a display of maps and pictures showing the history of the site. Another display will show what plants and animals we've recorded in the 3 years we've been working here.

There will also be lots of nature-related activities for children.

We want to hear what you think about what we are doing here, and to collect ideas about how we can improve it even more.

Getting there: Limited car parking in Abbey Rd. But Fletcher's Croft car park is just a 3-minute walk away.

Take the road between the Church and the Vicarage. Turn right onto the footpath behind the vicarage. Then take the left path, then left at Church Mead and you are there. It will be signposted.

ABBHEY ROAD CONSERVATION AREA

OPEN DAY

Sat 20th April, 11am - 3pm

Abbey Road Conservation Volunteers & Steyning Parish Council

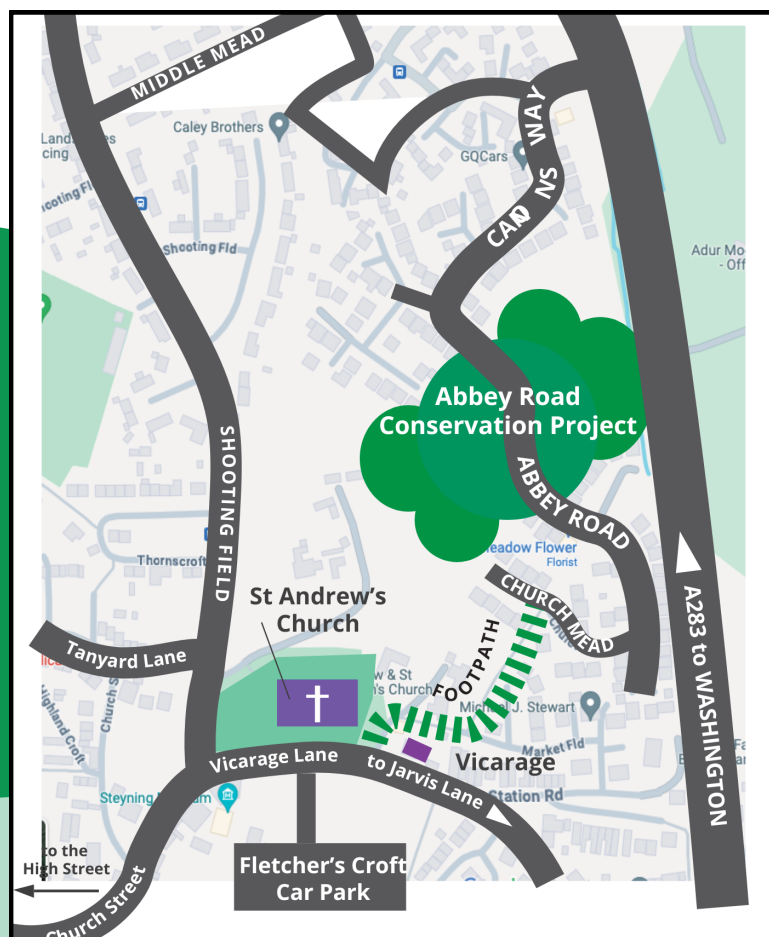
invite you to come and see this amazing site
and tell us what you would like to see here

Short activities including:

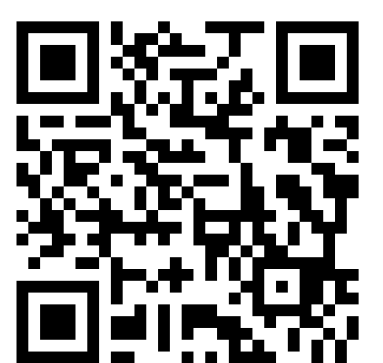
- Displays showing what we are doing
- Short guided walks around the site
- Children's activities
- Examples of animals and plants found on site
- Learn about local birds and their calls

**Dogs
Welcome**
(on lead)

**Family
Friendly**



Scan Me



**Colour in this picture & bring it
along on the day for a small prize
Under 11's only**



List of SPC Playground Equipment					
Fletchers Croft	Issue	Risk	Actions required following June 2021 Wicksteed Inspection	Action still to be completed since inspection	manufacturer
Chair Spinner	None	low	All previous work with manufacturer has been done	completed	Creative play
See Saw	none	low	all works done	Completed	Creative play
Rocking dog	None	low	all work done	Completed	Creative play
Surface/grass	Ground Eroded	Moderate	Reinstate Surface	Monitor Monthly	Creative play
Multi Play bridge	Algae or moss needs clearing	Moderate	Treat and Clean	Moss has been treated - Cpmpleted	Creative play
Rocking Duck	Handgrip/foot grip rotate and loose fixings	Moderate	SPC Contractor has Checked & Tightened	Work Done - Continue to Monitor Monthly	Creative play
Wet Pour	Gaps in surface	Moderate	Work Ordered - Waiting for better weather to carry out the work	To be completed by SPC Contractor	Creative play
Litter Bin	not securely fixed to ground	Moderate		SPC Contractor to secure	Creative play
Picnic tables	fire damage	Low	Contractor to continue to monitor	Monitor Monthly	SPC
Gate	Gap less the 12mm	Low	Contractor to continue to monitor	Monitor Monthly	Wicksteed
1 Bay 2 swings (Cradle)	parts of timber rough	moderate	Monitor for further deterioration	Monitor Monthly	Creative play
1 bay 2 swings (flat)	Gaps in surface edging	moderate	Work Ordered - Waiting for better weather to carry out the work	SPC Contractor	Creative play
Tractor	Gaps in surface edging	moderate	Work Ordered - Waiting for better weather to carry out the work	SPC Contractor	Creative play
play panel	some damage to bottom of posts	Moderate	Monitor for further damage or rotting posts	Monitor monthly	Creative play
Bench	surface has eroded	Moderate	Reinstate Surface	spc contractor	SPC
Fence	Posts damage	Moderate	Posts replaced	Completed	SPC
sign	Damaged	Moderate	Remove	completed	SPC
Memorial Playing Field	issue	risk	Actions required following June 2021 Wicksteed Inspection	Action still to be completed since inspection	manufacturer
Over Head Rotator	Surface damaged	Moderate	Work Ordered - Waiting for better weather to carry out the work	To be completed by SPC Contractor	Wicksteed
1 bay 2 swings (flat)	Surface damaged Timber has some cracks	Moderate	Work Ordered - Waiting for better weather to carry out the work Monitor cracks	To be completed by SPC Contractor	unknown
Rotating net	Surface damaged	Moderate	Work Ordered - Waiting for better weather to carry out the work	To be completed by SPC Contractor	Wicksteed
Basket swing	Surface damaged Timber has some cracks	Moderate	Work Ordered Waiting for better weather to carry out the work Monitor cracks	To be completed by SPC Contractor	Creative Play
Rocking & Cross equipment	Surface is damaged around the item	Moderate	Work Ordered - Waiting for better weather to carry out the work	To be completed by SPC Contractor	Big Toys
Gates to park	Surface is eroding	Moderate	Monitor	Monitor Monthly	wicksteeds
Bench seats	rotted timber	Moderate	contractor to remove as unfixable	Completed	SPC
Parallel Bars	some tmber rotted	Moderate	Contractor to obtain covers and make good	Waiting for better weather to carry out this work	Fawns Recreational services
1 bay 2 swings (Cradle)	seats are too close	Low	1 Seat has been removed	completed	big Toys
Somersault bars	parts of timber rough	Low	Contractor to monitor	Monitor Monthly	wicksteed
Balance beam	Surface is damaged around the item	Moderate	Work Ordered - Waiting for better weather to carry out the work	To be completed by SPC Contractor	wicksteed
Slide Unit	parts of steel have corroded	Moderate	Rub down and Paint Dry weather needed	To be completed by SPC Contractor	unknown
Multi Play	Paint flaking	low	rub down and repaint	To be completed by SPC Contractor	wicksteed
Boulders	None	Very Low	None		unknown
Fence	Holes in fence	low	Patching the mesh	monitor and repair	SPC
Shelter	Graffiti	Very Low	Remove	To be completed by SPC Contractor	Wicksteed
Spinning Pole	None	Very Low	None		Wicksteed
Log Walk	None	Very Low	None		Unknown
Litter Bin	None	Very Low	None		SPC

Chandlers Way	issue	risk	Actions required following June 2021 Wicksteed Inspection	Action still to be completed since inspection	manufacturer
1 Bay 2 swings (cradle and flat)	bushes are worn	Low	Monitor	Monthly Monitoring	unknown
Slide	removed				unknown
Fence	damaged panel	low	Repair as required	Done	SPC
Gate	Snagging on ground surface	moderate	Contractor can Rub down or replace gate	Done	SPC
Benches	Timber rough and splintered	low	Contractor can Rub down but needs replacing	done	SPC
Waste bin	Damage on lid	low	Monitor	monthly monitor	SPC
Hedge	overgrown vegetation	low	Careteker to cut back	DONE	SPC
Sign on gate	None	very low			
South Ash	issue	risk	Actions required following June 2021 Wicksteed Inspection	Action still to be completed since inspection	manufacturer
Path way surface	weeds and debris on surface	Moderate	Moss and algae to be removed	Moss has been treated - Completed	unknown
Multi Play	surface damage	low	Work Ordered - Waiting for better weather to carry out the work	to be done by SPC Contractor	unknown
fence/ground surface	fence leaning	low	to monitor	Monthly Monitoring	unknown
1 bay 2 swings	bushes are worn	Low	Monitor	Monthly Monitoring	unknown
Bench seat	None	Very low	none		SPC
Fence Bow Top	none	Very low	none		unknown
Gate	Gate rebounds	moderate	adjust as appropriate	Completed	unknown
sign	None	Very low	none		SPC
Abbey Road	issue	risk	Actions required following June 2021 Wicksteed Inspection	Action still to be completed since inspection	manufacturer
Pathway	Cracked tarmac	Moderate	Contractor to do tarmac repairs in better weather	to be done by SPC Contractor	unknown
Safety surface tiles	Moss and Algae	Moderate	moss and algae treated	Moss has been treated - Completed	unknown
1 bay 1 swing	Chain Wear	low	monitor	monthly monitor	unknown
bin	removed				HDC
Bench	Moss and Algae	Moderate	moss and algae treated	Moss has been treated - Completed	SPC
fence	none	very low	none		unknown
gate	Closing too quick	Moderate	contractor to adjust	done	unknown
Multi play	Moss and Algae	Moderate	moss and algae treated	Moss has been treated - Completed	unknown
Hedges/bushes	none	very low	Monitor and cut when required	monthly monitor	
Normans Way	Issue	risk	Actions required following June 2021 Wicksteed Inspection	Action still to be completed since inspection	manufacturer
Access Pathways	Grass	Low	Grass entry path has eroded and waterlogged in some areas - Reinstate Surface consider upgrading	to be monitored	unknown
Ancillary Items	Sign	Moderate	Sign is damaged - replace with appropriate sign	to be replaced	unknown
Fences	Fence Chainlink		some damage and leaning uprights	to be done by SPC Contractor	unknown
Fences	Fence Chainlink	low	overhanging foliage	done - needs monitoring	unknown
Gates	Pedestrian		Gates missing	have been removed - not being replaced	unknown
Multi Use Games Area	Basket Ball Goal	low	graffiti	board removed and replaced	carrr
Multi Use Games Area	Basket Ball Goal	Moderate	back board is cracking/damaged	back board has been replaced	carrr
Surface	Tarmac	Moderate	weeds and vegetation around edges of surface	done - needs monitoring	unknown
Surface	Tarmac	Moderate	Algae and moss growth on surface	work has been done	unknown
Surface	Tarmac	low	surface around the area is cracking/damaged	monitor for further deterioration	



Gale Tree Consultancy

Tree Condition Report

The Cricket nets, Memorial Field, Charlton Street

March 2024

Ref:

Gale Tree Consultancy

Tel: 01798 875731 | Email: office@galetreeconsultancy.co.uk | Web: galetreeconsultancy.co.uk

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Director: Andrew Gale - Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.Arbor.A
Registered Office: 34 Carpenters Meadow Pulborough West Sussex RH20 2HQ
Gale Tree Consultancy is a trading name of Andrew Gale Tree Surgery Ltd.
Registered in England & Wales VAT No: 921 2224 74



Summary

- The issue concerning this report is a slight rise in the surface of a practice cricket pitch surface resulting in unpredictable and dangerous bounce of the cricket ball
- Roots of a mature tree within c.2.8m of the edge of the cricket nets have been attributed to lifting of the pitch
- The severing of the offending roots has been recommended along with the application of an antagonistic fungi to ward off the effects of *Armillaria mellea* (Honey fungus) which was noted within the decaying area of a root unearthed during the excavation process
- Option to install a root barrier along the side of the cricket nets has also been suggested to reduce the risk of further lifting



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Client and Address

- John Fulbrook, Clerk to the Parish Council, Steyning Parish Council, Steyning Centre, Steyning, BN44 3XZ

1.2 Site Address if Different from the Above

- Memorial Field, Charlton Street, Steyning BN44 3LE

1.3 Date of Inspection

- 6th March 2024

1.4 Name of Inspector

- Andrew Gale *Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.Arbor.A*

1.5 Our Reference

- TCR/522/24

1.6 Instructions Received

- I have been instructed by the Parish Clerk to undertake an assessment of the roots from a tree which maybe affecting the surface area of the neighbouring the cricket practise nets
- I am to provide my findings in the form of a report detailing any remedial work that may be necessary

2.0 Scope of the Report

- Trees are dynamic living organisms and their health and condition can be subject to rapid changes, depending upon a number of internal and external factors
- The conclusions and recommendations contained within this report are based on information gained at the time of inspection and are subject to the limitations of the specialist nature of this survey
- Therefore, the likelihood of failure is considered for three years from the reports date based on the information gained on the day of the report and on the assumption that any recommended work will be undertaken in the time frame specified
- It should be noted that even completely sound, healthy trees, can fail given sufficiently severe weather conditions
- The survey carried out relates to specific defects identified by others in the subject tree and does not constitute a full tree inspection or risk assessment
- The site has not been checked for any statutory constraints
- The trees were not assessed for wildlife which would include birds or bats



3.0 Results of Inspection

3.1 Tree Species and Dimensions

No.	Species	Scientific Name	Stem ø cm	H (m)	Crown Spread (m)				Age	Phys. Con.
					N	E	S	W		
T44/315	Silver maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	245	14.0	5.5	5.5	4.5	5.0	M	GOOD

3.2 General Description

- The tree is situated c.2.8m to the north of the cricket practice nets
- The practice nets are edged with tanalised timber, held in position by square timber posts; the height of the edging is c.75mm. On the outside of the edging is a strip of compacted hardcore type material which has grass growing over the top
- Approximately a third of the way down, from the wicket end, is a slight rise in the surface which extends from the edge of the nets, and into the central area of the pitch. This rise in the surface is in line with the southern buttress root of the neighbouring tree
- The rise in the pitch surface is causing the bowled cricket ball to react unpredictably which has the potential to result in injury to the batsman/woman
- It is believed that the practice nets were installed in c.2017

3.3 Excavation

- To investigate the cause of the slight rise in the pitch surface, a strip of ground running parallel with the edge and between the pitch and tree, was excavated using a spade and hand trowel – see below:



Silver maple c.2.8m to the north of the edge of the cricket practice nets

Turf placed away from the excavation and the spoil placed on a tarpaulin

Location of the slight rise in the pitch surface



- The excavation exposed a number of roots entering the ground below the edging and beneath the practice cricket net pitch surface – see below:



Two roots laying on top of one another

Three smaller diameter roots on the right hand side of the excavation

- From left to right, the left hand root comprises of two roots laying on top of one another with the largest being c.5cm in diameter and the smaller c.2cm in diameter
- The three roots on the right hand side of the excavation were c.1.5cm in diameter
- A further truncated root, with a diameter of c.6cm, was noted on the right hand side of the excavation. This had decay forming along the upper surface with what appeared to be rhizomorphs emanating from the decayed area
- A white area of mycelium was also noted on an exposed area of bark on the root – see below:



Area of decay on the upper surface

White area just visible beneath the exposed bark layer



4.0 Summary of Results

- It is my opinion that the two roots on the left hand side of the excavation are causing the pitch surface to lift resulting in the uneven bounce of the cricket ball
- I do not believe the three smaller roots in the right hand area of the excavation are, at this time, causing the lifting but this may not always be the case
- To abate the issue of the pitch surface lifting, I recommend that the roots identified in the excavation are severed, allowing them to degrade over time and the cricket pitch surface stabilise to its original level
- Although the severance of roots is not readily advocated, in this instance I cannot see another option other than to relocate the practice pitch nearest the tree
- The decay, white mycelium and rhizomorphs noted within the truncated root are, in my opinion, that of *Armillaria mellea* (Honey fungus) and most likely colonised the root as a result of the installation of the cricket net's sub surface. Therefore, any further pruning of the roots may result in a further colonisation of the fungus
- One possible solution to this would be apply another fungus called *Trichoderma atrobrunneum* which inhibits the other fungi. It has a highly competitive capacity for food and space as the beneficial *Trichoderma atrobrunneum* fungus can grow quickly and use food sources efficiently. This limits space and other resources to wood decay fungi, which are required for their development
- If applied, the *Trichoderma atrobrunneum* has the potential to kill off the *Armillaria mellea* fungus and in doing so, limit the risk of decay forming in the rooting system
- For further information visit www.sorbus-intl.co.uk the sole suppliers of Mycosolutions products, who manufacture the product
- The Silver maple has already been reduced at c.11.0m and I would propose that no further reduction is carried out for two years from the reports date so the tree can acclimatise to the loss of the roots
- To reduce the risk of this happening again, a further option would be to install a root barrier along the edge of the cricket nets thus removing the risk of this happening again



5.0 Recommendations

- Reassess the tree within the existing survey time frame
- This time frame should be shortened in the event:
 - The tree's local environment changes significantly
 - Fruiting bodies emerge from anywhere on the tree
 - After extreme weather events such as:
 - Wind gusts in excess of Force 8 on the Beaufort Scale – see Appendix 3
 - After named extreme weather events
- If the tree is located within a conservation area or subject to a tree preservation order, a formal application to the local planning authority will be required and written consent obtained prior to any work is carried out

This concludes my report.

Signed:

Andrew Gale *Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.Arbor.A*

Date: 11th March 2024



Dog Fouling Clearance Report – End of Trial period

Briefing Note

Members need to decide if they want this service to continue
The service costs £ 25 Per MPF check – for approx. one hour's work
and we asked for a once-a-week service in Summer, and twice a week service in Winter.

These are the two reports from our contractor

March Update

Just letting you know how dog fouling removal is going at MPF.
There is always plenty to do each session!
Hopefully it's a bit of a deterrent for those inclined not to pick up, certainly people thank us.
It's a bit harder with the long grass but guess cutting starts soon.
We aim for the 2 sessions to be at weekends, but sometimes the second session has to be a Thursday for example if I'm busy / away .

September report

I've just started the ' winter ' dog fouling clearing at MPF ,so thought I'd get in touch .
The weekly sessions have kept me busy !
Always finding general litter on the way .
Quite a lot of fox/ badger mess this time of year .
I've had quite a lot of positive comments ,and being seen there.
I'd like to think is a bit of a deterrent to owners not clearing up after their dogs .(the high vis jacket gets noticed !)
I keep an eye on the sports fixtures prioritising the areas played on and around.
It's been fine committing to Friday or Saturday so far, I'll aim for the same for the 2 winter sessions .
Obviously, I can't be responsible beyond the sessions ,but hoping it's making a difference to those who requested it .
I wondered about a sign put out while matches are on ,politely asking people to clean up after their dogs as children's sport taking place. - Just a thought

Grass Cutting Report

Item 6.5

Briefing Note



After a four-year long association with our previous grass cutting contractor, we now welcome the services of Sussex Land Services Ltd. The first week of cuts will take place on or about the 4th April this year as our new contract starts at the beginning of April.

You may note that with previous arrangements we would normally have one or two cuts remaining in credit from the previous year likely due to inclement weather stopping the contractor from completing cuts on specified days, and these we would have available for use at the beginning of each new season – and used if weather allowed in the last week or two of March.

These credits accrued last year were taken off the final invoice from the previous contractor and therefore we had no early cuts available to us. Consequently due to the warm weather the grass is looking quite long at the moment – so the new contractor will be playing catch up for a few weeks.



DMMO Application for the Rifle Range, Steyning

Briefing Note

The SPC application to WSCC in 2021 to dedicate the submitted footpath routes across the Rifle Range was finally debated at the Planning and Rights of Way committee on March 19th. Gill Muncey and Chris Young attended to read statements in support of this, Richard Goring (the landowner) attended and spoke opposing it and a statement was submitted and read out by the Chair from Cllr Paul Linehan also opposing it. The legal team assessing the application were satisfied that it met the criteria under Common Law and could be granted. Following some searching debate the vote was taken to approve the application by 8 votes to 1 with 1 abstention. There is now a six-month period during which an appeal may be made.

Chris Young

March 2024

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 29/02/2024

Month No: 11

Committee Report

Amenities Cttee**201 Highways & Lighting**

	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
1001 HDC Cleaning Grant	27,962	25,700	(2,262)	25,700			108.8%	
Highways & Lighting :- Income	27,962	25,700	(2,262)	25,700			108.8%	0
4200 Street Light Energy	1,697	975	(722)	975		(722)	174.0%	
4201 Street Light Maintenance	2,121	2,250	129	2,250		129	94.3%	
4202 Lamp Post Testing	1,320	1,550	230	1,550		230	85.2%	
4210 Road Sweeping	24,296	16,863	(7,433)	18,400		(5,896)	132.0%	
4211 Town Improvements	1,840	500	(1,340)	1,500		(340)	122.7%	340
4259 Grit	0	200	200	200		200	0.0%	
4260 Pressure wash High St	0	250	250	250		250	0.0%	
Highways & Lighting :- Indirect Expenditure	31,274	22,588	(8,686)	25,125	0	(6,149)	124.5%	340
Net Income over Expenditure	(3,312)	3,112	6,424	575				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	340							
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(2,972)							

301 Playing Fields

1004 Reimbursed Charges & donations	540	500	(40)	500			108.0%	
Playing Fields :- Income	540	500	(40)	500			108.0%	0
4276 Tree and Hedge Cutting	3,314	4,000	686	5,000		1,686	66.3%	

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 29/02/2024

Month No: 11

Committee Report

	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
4300 Grass Cutting	5,634	6,800	1,166	6,800		1,166	82.9%	
4309 Tree Reports & Essential works	2,036	2,700	664	2,903		867	70.1%	
4310 Grounds Maintenance	5,060	3,212	(1,848)	3,500		(1,560)	144.6%	816
4312 Waste Removal	1,749	1,694	(55)	1,850		102	94.5%	
4320 Play & Gym Equip Inspections	2,115	2,000	(115)	2,000		(115)	105.8%	
4321 Play Equipment & Maintenance	4,404	2,288	(2,116)	2,500		(1,904)	176.1%	
4352 Litter and Bins	3,442	2,981	(461)	3,250		(192)	105.9%	
4360 Allotment Maintenance	192	350	158	3,200		3,008	6.0%	
Playing Fields :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>27,944</u>	<u>26,025</u>	<u>(1,919)</u>	<u>31,003</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,059</u>	<u>90.1%</u>	<u>816</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(27,404)</u>	<u>(25,525)</u>	<u>1,879</u>	<u>(30,503)</u>				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	816							
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(26,588)</u>							
<u>302 Allotments</u>								
1005 Allotment Rents	5,247	4,650	(597)	4,700			111.6%	
Allotments :- Income	<u>5,247</u>	<u>4,650</u>	<u>(597)</u>	<u>4,700</u>			<u>111.6%</u>	<u>0</u>
4253 Water Charges	75	1,200	1,125	1,300		1,225	5.8%	
Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>75</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,125</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,225</u>	<u>5.8%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>5,172</u>	<u>3,450</u>	<u>(1,722)</u>	<u>3,400</u>				
Amenities Cttee :- Income	33,749	30,850	(2,899)	30,900			109.2%	
Expenditure	59,292	49,813	(9,479)	57,428	0	(1,864)	103.2%	
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(25,543)</u>	<u>(18,963)</u>	<u>6,580</u>	<u>(26,528)</u>				
plus Transfer from EMR	1,156							