



Full Parish Council meeting - Supporting information – 10th October 2022

8) SDNP parish workshop – 18 October 2022

Meeting on Tuesday 18 October 2022 at The South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst GU29 9DH from 6:00-8:30pm.

12) Policy review

- a) Financial regulations - review of expenditure limits – internal auditor recommended reviewing the limits – to get rid of the odd £1 in £501/£5,001 and to consider if £500 is enough in an emergency (removing a fallen tree for example) being mindful that it takes at least 4 days to hold a finance committee meeting.

Excerpt from regulations: (full regulations on website)

BUDGETARY CONTROL AND AUTHORITY TO SPEND

Expenditure on revenue items may be authorised up to the amounts included for that class of expenditure in the approved budget. This authority is to be determined by:

the council for all items over £5,000 ;

the Finance committee of the council for items over £500 and under £5,001; or

the Clerk, in conjunction with Chairman of Council or Chairman of the Finance committee, for any items below £501.

Such authority is to be evidenced by a Minute or by an authorisation slip duly signed by the Clerk, and where necessary also by the appropriate Chairman.

Contracts may not be disaggregated to avoid controls imposed by these regulations.

13) Finance matters

- a) Review and acceptance of 2021/22 External Auditor's Certificate and Notice of Conclusion of audit. Published on website.

- b) Interim audit recommendations

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS It is recommended to use common email addresses because it gives a natural segregation between work and personal lives, making it clear beyond doubt in what capacity a councillor is acting. In addition to this it gives control to the council, adds a degree of professionalism and in the event of a FOI request limits access to personal computers.

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS I remind council it is required to also post any supporting documentation with the agendas as outlined by the Information Commissioner's Office.

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS Based on the comments in the External Auditor's Report, the council is reminded to ensure it correctly completes the assertions within the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2022/23 in relation to its trustee responsibilities. *(note: Rogate Parish Council are the sole trustee registered charity 305412 'Recreation Ground (Rogate) (Inclosure Allotment).*

16c) Update from Eco Rother Action 'Riverwatch -

This is our third month of doing monthly surveys. We had hoped to identify 4 places between Petersfield and Midhurst where we could survey from public footpaths. I have just checked on the map and so far surveys have happened at 10 different sites, and we are due to add 2 more sites tomorrow. Some of the extras are because people have contacted us and offered us access to their gardens to carry out surveys from, or a great spot they happen to know. I have given talks on the project to U3A eco groups in Midhurst and Petersfield and written about the project in village magazines. At every turn volunteers come forward to join our group and so, as a result we now have 5 fully trained surveyors, 5 surveyors who have had the first half of their training and 2 others waiting to begin their training. A total of 20 surveys have been carried out so far.

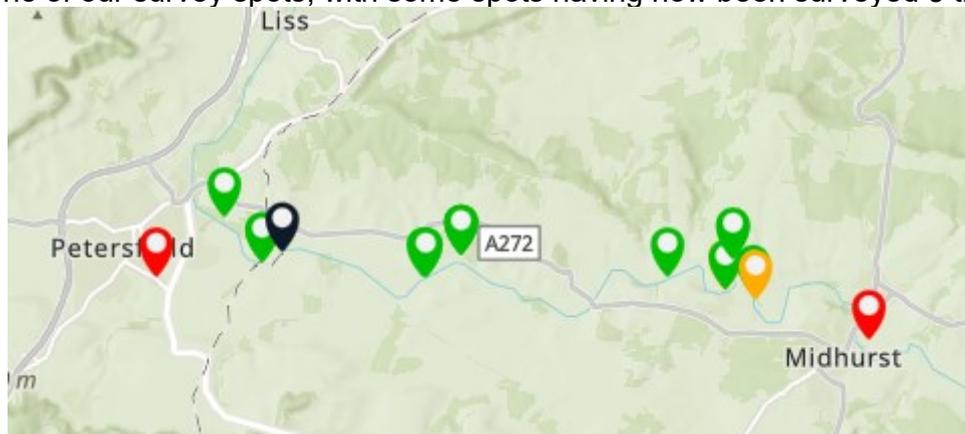
Results so far have been encouraging with levels of nitrates and phosphates being low to middling. Recently we found a patch of what we thought to be slurry on the river, but it may prove to be brown foam, so we are taking advice on this from the project organisers and may need to report this to the Environment Agency. I returned to the site with a decent camera and have it all recorded. If anything comes of this I will keep you informed as it is within your parish and at a spot where people are known to swim. Hopefully the weather turning chilly will keep folk out of the water, but I have informed the swimmers who we know of.

We have had many conversations with walkers, swimmers, folk who live by the river and even a farmer. With every conversation we spread the word and learn more about the river by tapping into this wealth of local knowledge.

When we have a year's worth of data the President of Haslemere Natural History Society has offered to have a go at analysing the data for us.

The annual registration to stay in the project will be £200. The starter kit for each surveyor is £48 each - they can be shared but it makes things more logistically tricky. Chemicals for 5 surveys cost £12. The funding that Earthwatch, the global charity that runs this project, found for ERA is still covering our running costs. I am able to train new volunteers and so far I haven't turned away anybody who wanted to train as a surveyor. I am hoping we will soon be getting fewer people coming forward!

To summarise, the project keeps growing, both geographically and in numbers of people involved and we are in a rather intense training period currently. Each marker on this map shows one of our survey spots, with some spots having now been surveyed 3 times:



16d) Update on Parsonage wildflower area - from Nick Heasman SDNP

Following a record dry year the recent rain has helped the wild flower area in its first year with germination of the seeds occurring. Year one is very much about establishment with little presence of wild flower showing although Oxeye Daisies, Birds foot trefoil, Lesser Knapweed and Yarrow have put on a little show. The area was cut in July with arisings taken away, this stimulates the perennial grasses and flowers to 'tiller' and develop stronger roots in the long term. This autumn will see one more cut and collect and also the addition of a few more plants in plug form to be planted, namely foxgloves for the bank, greater knapweed and ladies bedstraw that have been donated. The disease resistant elm tree has taken well after a good 40 litres of water each week, invaluable this year to establish the tree, it is hoped that this in time will support the increasingly rare White Letter Hairstreak butterfly that need Elm trees <https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/white-letter-hairstreak>

If you have room in your garden for establishing wild flowers, especially on a sunny area of lawn then you may find this video very useful by Plantlife very useful, more the merrier https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITwIz4EUQ&list=PLbwhrNerrP5Saf-aJeq2vRg_pbvP5hjkz&index=1

17) Drainage issues/operation watershed

Awaiting revised quote from Landbuild – they are checking how the drains run where North Street meetings A272 at the crossroads as don't want to solve one problem and cause another.