

Hurstpierpoint Parkland Governance structure Parkland Advisory Board + Parkland Management Committee - background

1. The purpose of this Note is to set out the arrangements for the future management and governance of the Council's newly acquired parkland areas. The Council agreed to the arrangements at its meeting 21 January 2016, which would be introduced as the land is transferred to the Council's ownership.
2. At its meeting 17 July 2014 (Minute C622) the Council agreed to an outline process for establishing a Parkland Management Committee. The Council established a small Parkland Working Group, reporting to Council, as an interim measure but since then there has been further interest in the subject, and the relevant planning permissions and their associated s106 agreements have been confirmed. It is now felt appropriate to introduce a more permanent system of management and governance.
3. Two significant areas of farmland and woodland north of Highfield Drive (about 9 Ac) and Little Park (about 40 Ac) are to be transferred to the Council during 2016, together with s106 fund totalling approximately £400,000. The funds have been calculated as approximately £100,000 for preparatory works and the remainder to be drawn down over 20 years for ongoing maintenance (about £18,000 pa). The land will be covenanted against future development, in perpetuity, in accordance with the policies and aims of the Neighbourhood Plan.
4. The Planning conditions (Clause 15) attached to the permission (MSDC Ref: 12/04141) require a **Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)** to be approved by the Planning Authority, to be substantially based on the version accompanying the application. The following is an extract from the LEMP:

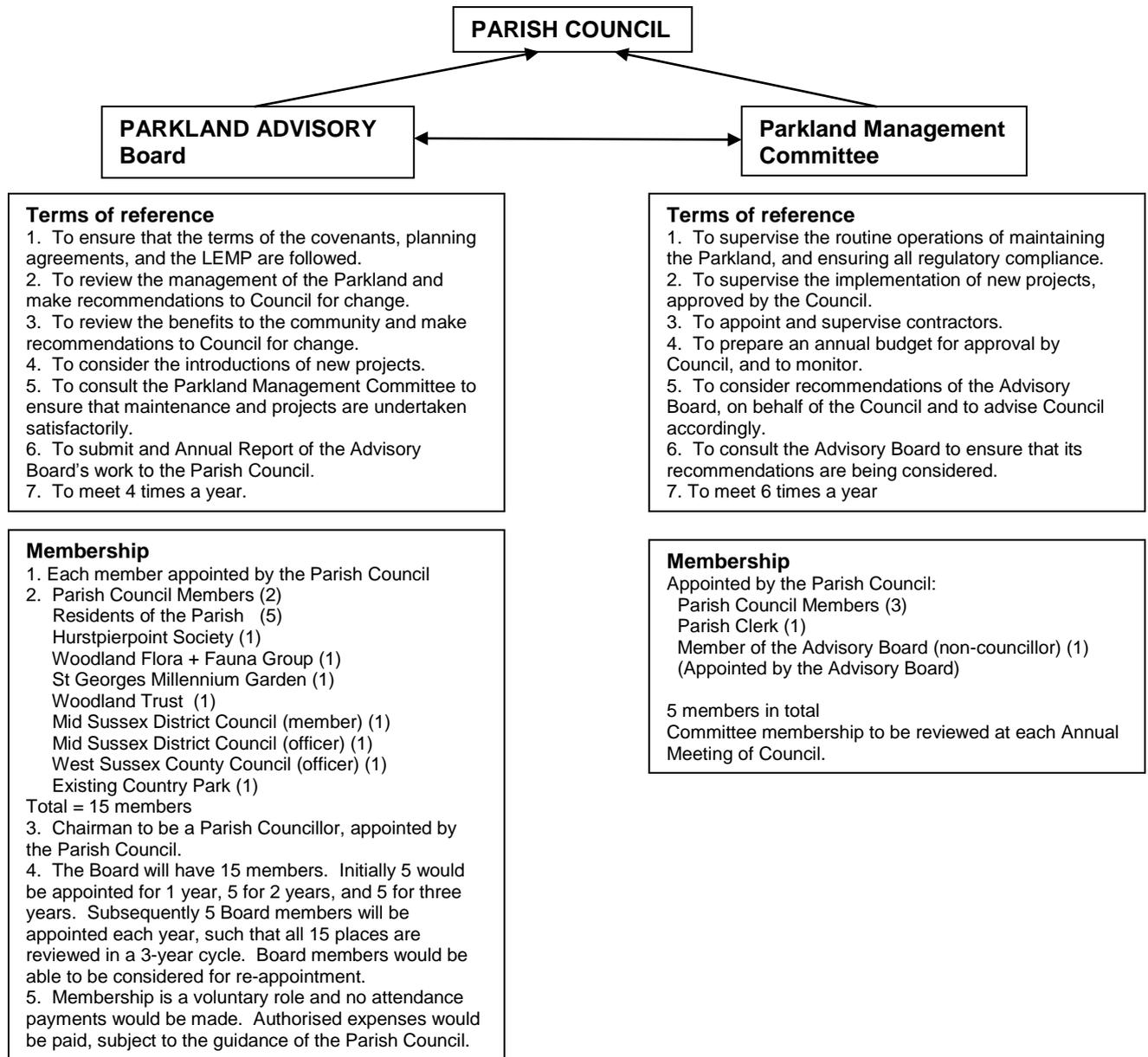
The aims and objectives of the LEMP are to set out a detailed framework of landscape management operations required to:

- 1.8.1 secure the long term health, safety and screening quality of the important landscape green infrastructure of the site provided by existing and new hedgerows, woodland shaw, and tree cover. This will include maintenance of new reinforcement / infill planting and periodic selective coppicing and hedge laying to achieve structural diversity, effective screening and secure boundaries where appropriate;
- 1.8.2 manage the COS (Country Open Space) in a naturalistic manner with low key maintenance inputs to ensure that the visual separation between Hurstpierpoint and Hurst Wickham is maintained as well as providing a pleasant local amenity and increasing local biodiversity and habitat;
- 1.8.3 provide an informal setting for the two areas of development;
- 1.8.4 provide a pleasant internal landscaped environment to the two areas of development capitalizing on opportunities to enhance biodiversity by using native species and/or species of known wildlife food and habitat value in the new planting
- 1.8.5 provide a robust landscape edge to the proposed development at Little Park Farm
- 1.8.6 maintain the play area; (*this area will now be outside the parkland and not the responsibility of the Council*)
- 1.8.7 maintain the Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) elements; (*this area will now be outside the parkland and not the responsibility of the Council*)
- 1.8.8 maintain boundary fences and access gates;
- 1.8.9 maintain signage, seats and bins;
- 1.8.10 maintain bird and bat boxes.

Further details are scheduled in the LEMP for preparatory and ongoing scheduled works.

5. It is also necessary to explore how the Parkland might be nurtured in the longer-term. The objective is to establish a framework to oversee, plan, and implement projects for the long-term conservation and management of the parkland and woodland areas. Including:
 - Protecting and nurturing existing habitats
 - Possibly introducing new species, natural to the area.
 - Re-introducing areas such as grass meadows, copses, and water zones
 - Programmes to educate the local community to appreciate and conserve
 - Provision of interpretation areas (for the public and special-interest groups)
 - Provision of trails to focus public activity in chosen areas (and to deter from more sensitive conservation areas).
 6. This is a major scheme for Hurstpierpoint and the Parish, for the long term benefit of the community, and has understandably generated much interest. The Council, as owner and custodian of the land and the funds, has a responsibility of balancing the hopes and aspirations of individuals and groups with the obligations of the planning permission and the covenants. A robust, fair and transparent system of governance and management is therefore to be introduced.
 7. Ultimately it is the Council that is responsible for sustaining and maintaining the parkland areas. It is suggested that there are three elements to ensuring sound governance:
 - The legal obligations of the Council as custodians of the land and funds
 - Meeting the range of aspirations of the local community
 - Ensuring competent advice and expertise is applied in preserving, conserving and enhancing the parkland
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8. The following governance structure has therefore been agreed:



9. Following the agreement of Council, it is expected that the Management committee will be formed in March 2016 and the Advisory Board by April 2016.

Stephen Hoyles
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL
10 February 2016