

**Hurstpierpoint Parkland Advisory Board**  
**MINUTES of Meeting 7.30pm Tuesday 14 March 2017 at the Village Centre,**  
**Hurstpierpoint BN6 9UY**

**Present:**

Stephen Hand – Chairman	Patrick Haworth	Claire Majsai
Amanda Geel	Michael Nailard	Donna Willis
David Evans	David Brown	Helen Brangwyn
John Wilkinson	Tony Whitbread	Adrien Bischoff-Dyson
Stephen Hoyles (Clerk)		Rachel Felton

**In attendance:** Steve Whitehead (Parish Councillor)

**PAB16/20. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest:** There were no apologies for absence from members of the Board. There were no declarations of interest.

**PAB16/21. Minutes of the meeting of the Parkland Advisory Board 15 November 2016:** The Board received and approved the minutes.

**PAB16/22. Presentations by special interest groups:**

**(1) Hurstpierpoint Society** Member Patrick Haworth presented: The Society has around 1400 members with the objective of protecting the buildings and countryside around Hurstpierpoint, and was very interested in the effects of the new parkland areas on the village. It was suggested that the parkland be left with as little change as possible for the first year, to allow the public to adjust to the new environment and to enable the Board to assess the introduction of physical changes. The following was noted: there were already 'dog-walkers' in field OG4 (Little Park east); parts of field OG5 (Highfield Drive west) were very soft following the developers placing of topsoil; the Board should encourage general access across the whole parkland, but some smaller areas might be fenced off from time to time for conservation purposes; the introduction of small ponds and woodland areas should be investigated, with Batchelors Farm in Burgess Hill being a good example of the type of landscape; it was important to ensure that the new residents of Little Park development had clear access to the village centre, through Marchants Close; the existing public rights of way should be noted; the entrance to field OG6 (Highfield Drive) should be off the twitten (St Georges footpath) but consideration should also be given to a pedestrian entrance off Collage Lane adjacent to Two Trees. The Society also noted that any by-laws should encourage quiet uses of the parkland, that the St Georges footpath could be restored, and that the connection from Trinity Road (opposite the Health Centre) into the parkland should be restored as it was often almost impassable due to water-logging. The Society would encourage disabled access wherever reasonable, and suggested the use of the small parcel of land next to the Scout HQ as a possible carpark for the disabled. The Society would encourage suitable access points between the Millennium Garden and field OG4 (Little Park parkland); benches and dog waste bins should be provided, but the area should not take on the character of a 'municipal park'. The Society would be pleased to take responsibility for specific projects and also suggested the creation of a volunteer group dedicated to the maintenance of the parkland areas. (*Ref: Hurstpierpoint Society presentation notes 14 March 2017*)

**(2) St Georges Millennium Garden Trust members:** Member David Brown presented: The experience of the Garden Trust was the difficulty of establishing wildflowers in the clay soils, and expected the parkland to have similar problems, in particular taking account of the likely high fertilization levels in the soils. Nevertheless attempts should be encouraged to establish wildflower colonies. The Trust encouraged open access to the public and supported the suggestion of leaving the parkland to settle for a year before introducing substantive changes. There should be good access from the Garden into the parkland. The Trust was keen to encourage the use of dedicated volunteer groups. The Trust specifically proposed that an apple orchard was introduced, comprising indigenous species such as 'Crawley Beauty' and 'Egremont Russett'. The orchard would comprise 40 trees in 20 species, covering about 0.8Ac, surrounded by a fruit hedge and gate. The location was for consideration. Advice is being sought from Mr Peter May of Brighton Permaculture Trust. A local resident, Mr Peter Sadler has also indicated willingness to advise. (*Ref: Millennium Garden Trust presentation notes 14 March 2017*)

The Board considered the proposal for an orchard and agreed to recommend to the Parkland Management committee (Parish Council) that it be included in the future management of the parkland, at a location to be decided.

**RESOLVED: The Board recommends to the Parish Council that a 40 tree apple orchard is established in the parkland, at a location to be decided.**

The Chairman thanked the two presenters and a number of questions and comments were raised. It was noted that the Hurstpierpoint Woodland Flora and Fauna group and the Sussex Wildlife Trust are asked to offer presentations at the next Board meeting.

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**PAB16/23. Parish Council Parkland Management Committee:** The Board was asked to note the Minutes of the meeting of 17 January 2017. In particular the Board was asked to note the intended schedule of contracts for preparing and maintaining the sites:

Contract Ref:	Description of preparatory works	Timescale	Budget estimate
No 1	Highfield Parkland: fences, gates, paths, removing obstacles and items of risk	April 2017	12,000
No 2	Little Park Parkland: fences, gates, paths, removing obstacles and items of risk	June/July 2017	25,000
No 3	Tree survey	November 2017	2,000
No 4	Highfield Parkland: Meadow and hedgerow planting,	May 2017	5,000
No 5	Little Park Parkland: Meadow and hedgerow planting,	October 2017	12,000
No 6	Little Park Parkland: Tree surgery, removing risk. Bat and bird boxes	Feb/Mar 2018	6,000
No 7	Signposts and interpretation boards	Spring 2018	10,000
No 8	5-year meadow areas maintenance	Autumn 2018	5,000 pa
No 9	Highfield - Little Park crossing point	Autumn 2018	10,000
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£87,000</b>

*(Parkland Management Committee Minutes of meeting 17 January 2017)*

It was noted that Contracts 3 and 4 might be delayed until the following planting season.

**PAB16/24. Highfield Drive Parkland:** The Board noted the following:

**(1) Progress report:**

(a) The land transfer is still awaited, but Transfer Deeds have been signed and completion is due to take place very shortly. A delay was caused by the need for clarifications regarding a septic tank overflow pipe from 'Little Dragons' which is now resolved.

(b) Detailed layout plans for Contract 1 (fences, gates and paths) have been prepared and tenders are being sought (together with Contract 2 – Little Park) with the intention of work starting in June/July 2017. The Board reviewed the layout plans and agreed that the works were appropriate for the initial preparatory stage. *(Highfield Drive Sketch Layout – Contract 1)*

(c) A meeting took place on 6 March 2017 with invited residents from College Lane and Highfield Drive, to explain the preparation and function of the parkland. 27 residents attended and the main issues concerned the maintenance of hedges and fences.

**PAB16/25. Little Park Parkland:** The Board is asked to note the following:

(a) The land transfer is still awaited, but Transfer Deeds have been signed and completion is due to take place very shortly.

(b) Detailed layout plans for Contract 2 (fences, gates and paths) have been prepared and tenders are being sought (together with Contract 1 – Highfield Drive) with the intention of work starting in June/July 2017. The Board reviewed the layout plans and agreed that the works were appropriate for the initial preparatory stage. There was some discussion regarding the routes of the footpaths through the centre of the fields, and not around the periphery. It was noted that the establishing of wildflower and other wildlife tended to take place around the peripheries and therefore it was good practice to route paths slightly away from the edges. *(Little Park Sketch Layout – Contract 2)*

(c) Marchants Close access: Following discussion with the landowner of the access adjacent road it had been agreed that it would be preferable for safety reasons to allow pedestrian access alongside, but not on the metalled road. To facilitate this a combined footpath and boardwalk would be constructed to connect Marchants Close with the western edge of the parkland. The board is asked to note the sketch design which is being considered. A meeting was due to be held with MSDC Tree Officer on 14 March 2017, to discuss a suitable route for the path, to minimise impact on the ancient woodland, but was postponed to a later date. The Board confirmed its approval of the proposed scheme. *(Ref: Marchants Close access design sketch - Feb 2017)*

**PAB16/26. Questions:** The matter of the existing culvert within the Wilderness woodland was raised, noting that the Parish Council would have responsibility as riparian owner for maintaining the ditch and pipe.

**PAB16/27. Dates of next meeting:** 11 July 2017

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman

Dist:

<b>Parish Council representatives</b>	<b>Special groups representatives</b>	<b>Members of the public</b>
Stephen Hand David Evans Amanda Geel Stephen Hoyles (Clerk) VACANT	Patrick Howarth (Hurstpierpoint Society) Michael Nailard (Woodland Flora + Fauna Group ) David Brown (St Georges Millennium Garden ) Tony Whitbread (Sussex Wildlife Trust ) John Wilkinson (Mid Sussex District Council	Claire Majasi Donna Willis Helen Brangwyn Adrien Bischoff-Dyson Rachel Felton

Cc: Parish Council Members

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