

Hamsey Parish Council
www.hamsey.net
Mrs N Kinch, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council
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**Minutes of the virtual meeting of HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL
held on Google Meet on Thursday 11th March 2021 - 7.15pm**

Present: Cllr T d'Arienzo, Chair
Cllr K McBrown
Cllr S Fleming
Cllr C Henry
Cllr C Croft
Cllr I Linington – Lewes District Councillor

Apologies: Cllr C Perkins
MP Maria Caulfield

In Attendance: Mrs N Kinch - Clerk/RFO to the Council.
2 Members of the public were in attendance

Meeting Started at 7.15pm

		Action
	<i>Chair welcomes everyone to the meeting</i>	
03.21.1	Apologies for absence – as above	
03.21.1.2	<p>Council said their final good byes to Rachel Kelly. Chair and All express great thanks to Rachel for all of her achievements over what has been a very difficult year. Rachel joined the Parish Council in March 2020 and has been extremely proactive giving her time to reignite ParkPals and liaising with the school, setting the course for Parish improvements, working on grants for CIL projects, volunteering at Beechwood Hall and getting the Pizza van secured for the community.</p> <p>Rachel expressed that she has gained a huge amount of knowledge and has enjoyed her time on the Parish Council but due to family commitments and work hours increasing she feels it is time to step down. Rachel kindly offered her help with any volunteering in the future.</p>	
03.21.1.3	<p>Council considered co-opting for the vacancy on the Council-</p> <p>Council had received one application to the vacancy on the Parish Council. Chair introduced Jim Redwood to Council and explained Jim's fantastic planning expertise, Monday Group connections and life experience and expressed how he'd be a great addition to the Council. Jim gave a brief introduction of himself, his passion for planning and how he shall endeavour to support the Parish Council and be a voice for the community. Chair proposes Jim to fill the vacancy. Seconded by Cllr Henry. All in favour. Jim signed the Declaration and Acceptance of Office Form in front of everyone and showed this to all present. Council welcomed Jim to the team as Cllr Redwood.</p>	<p>Cllr Redwood to fill out the Register of Member's Interest forms and return to Clerk for submitting to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of Co-option.</p>

03.21.2	Questions from the Public – none	
03.21.3	Declaration of Interest from any Councillor – none	
03.21.4	Minutes from the last virtual meeting held on Thursday 14th January 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.	
03.21.5	Update on any matters arising from the last meeting – none	
03.21.6.1	<p>Financial matters: <i>a) Council approved the following payments (including vat)</i></p> <p>Council approved payment of invoices as detailed (including v.a.t): Cheque No. 300462 – SSALC- 5x Councillor Training - £180.00 *Cheque No. 300463 – SSALC – Social Media Skills Training - £36.00 *Cheque No. 300464 – Cllr d'Arienzo – Christmas Lights Expenses - £100 *Cheque No. 300465 – National Trust – Licence for the Brazier - £20.00 *Cheque No. 300466 – Jamie’s Farm – Christmas Sleigh Storage expenses - £100 *Cheque No. 300467 – SSALC- Cllr McBrown training course - £36.00 *Cheque No. 300468 – Clerk’s salary/ Gsuite and Phone expenses *Cheque 300469 – Howard Eaton Lighting Ltd – for Community Christmas Tree Lights - £600 *Cheque No. 300470 SSALC Limited – End of Year Training for Clerk - £36.00</p> <p>*Cheque No. 300471 Rockfelt Roofing Ltd – Emergency Roofing works carried out to the Veranda at Beechwood Hall - £7,044.00 *Cheque No. 300472 – Clerk’s salary/ Gsuite expenses and Phone Expenses *Cheque No. 300473 – Book of Condolence and Stamps x2 books - £25.55</p>	
03.21.6.2	Council noted the current financial situation	
03.21.6.3	<p>Council discussed the subscriptions for the coming year 2021-2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSALC – Sussex & Surrey Association of Local Councils - £230.05 • LDALC – Lewes District Association of Local Councils - £20 • CPRE – The Countryside Charity - £36.00 • SLCC- Society of Local Council Clerks - £136.00 • OART – Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust - £15.00 <p>All in agreement to fund the subscriptions for the coming financial year.</p>	

<p>03.21.7.1</p>	<p>To receive any report from the Planning Committee – Reports available online Chair explained that section a) is for planning applications received and comments submitted by Hamsey Parish Council. Cllr Linington referred to application LW/20/0609 and told all that there has been a significant back log on decisions with the Planning dept at LDC due to Covid restrictions and staffing issues. This particular application has been reassigned to James Smith Case Officer and ecology reports are in process before a decision is made.</p>	
<p>03.21.7.2</p>	<p>Chair gave a brief about the Old Hamsey Brickworks applications and referred to the plans for the path from Bevernbridge to South Chailey. Highways have been contacted in relation to this proposed path and safety issues have been flagged. Concerns over the proposal to cross over the A275 due to the verges being too narrow to accommodate a path the full stretch of the location have been identified by Chair along with the positioning and safety of the bus stop. No crossings will be installed and just a dropped kerb on a fast stretch of road. Chair has contacted Dan Witcher, Principal Officer at Transport Development Control ESCC to gauge his view on the plans. The Parish Council are still lobbying for a path to be installed South bound from Bevernbridge to Cooksbridge, however at present an issue with Highways, developers and landowners contact seems to be halting any progress. The safety of residents is paramount and must be addressed. Chair is in discussions with landowners to discuss the path Southbound, ongoing.</p>	<p>Chair to continue liaising with Highways and Dan Witcher on the proposed pathway northbound and the landowners for the path southbound.</p>
<p>03.21.7.3</p>	<p>Planning application LW/20/0813 was not identified by LDC as within our Parish but notification had been sent to Barcombe so Clerk has written to LDC Planning Dept to inform them it is within our area.</p>	
<p>03.21.7.4</p>	<p>In reference to application SDNP/18/06103/OUT Cllr Redwood expressed concerns as this area had been previously excluded from the Lewes Local Plan and he understood had been introduced by the SDNPA partly because the circumstances of the site meant that it should be able to deliver a very high proportion of affordable housing. However, it is understood that the site is now only proposed to provide 15% affordable housing – less than the 40% policy requirement. Cllr Fleming referred to the development at North Street in Lewes and spoke about the flooding issues and connection with the proposed Old Malling Farm development being on flood plain land.</p>	
<p>03.21.7.5</p>	<p>Updates from LDC or SDNP on the following Planning Applications: Chair explained that section b) on the agenda is for planning applications that have been decided on by LDC or SDNP. In relation to SDNP/20/05479/FUL Chair informed Council that this application has been approved and therefore the owners can now renovate the barn and carry out the conversion to live there. The approval has been given subject to conditions that a maximum of four caravans, four pitches and restrictions on activity are adhered to. If the residents decide to move on then the property must revert back to day rooms after 6 months of non-residency.</p>	

<p>03.21.7.6</p>	<p>Council discussed the Lewes Local Plan – Land Assessment Availability and Methodology- Report attached online.</p> <p>The main explanation on the paperwork consultation can be found in the report along with comments that Hamsey Parish Council has submitted in regard to the sites identified within the Parish for development and the methodology used to identify these sites. Cllr Linington gave a brief overview on the situation, clarifying the mis communications from Maria Caulfield MP and the planning process and Government White Paper. The Lewes Local Plan Part 1 is coming up to the 5 year review date in May 2021. The plan is a long drawn out process that takes time to set in place, ensuring all the relevant documentation, revision in the law and connection with the National Park are all taken into consideration in the review. The Government recommends a review every 5 years and has set out its own Algorithms in the new White Paper for planning regulations. This has caused huge uproar with the proposed housing targets being far higher than before. This has now been reviewed and the Standard Methodology has been introduced in the proposals for development. Cllr Linington clarified that The Alliance at LDC took over the review in July 2019 of the Local Plan Part 1 but the time table given is not long enough to review the plan in full – this is anticipated to take until 2023 when it will be ready for the inspectors. At present LDC are working with local landowners in a Call for Sites to identify the local areas for development. All Parish Councils have been consulted on identified development sites and asked for their input and knowledge of whether these are suitable or not. Maria Caulfield MP is currently lobbying for an extension on the time frame and for the Local Plan Part 2 to be used as the new consultation as this was adopted only in February 2020. Chair asked if the cap on housing numbers can really be taken away as shown in the White Paper and what is achievable in housing numbers for the Lewes District. Cllr Linington states that LDC have done the best they can within a pressured situation but advised that as a Council we add as much detail into the consultation comments as we possibly can. Chair thanks Cllr Linington for her advice. Concerns over unsuitability of the sites identified within the Parish were flagged by Cllr Croft and Cllr Redwood. Chair agrees none of the sites identified are entirely suitable for residential only and many will likely be opposed in detail owing to lack of sustainability, accessibility, detrimental impact on the environment and the ecology of the area and/or a missed opportunity for business/employment opportunities.</p>	
<p>03.21.7.7</p>	<p>Chair shared the proposals from East Chiltington Parish Council to join them in opposing the main site identified for development within their boundary – Eton College has proposed building a 3000 homes market town as an ‘agricultural urbanism’ scheme under the new call for sites. Hamsey Parish Council have united with the Parish Councils of East Chiltington, Chailey, Plumpton, Wivelsfield, Barcombe and Westmeston to form an Inter-Council Steering Group for opposing those sites identified as unsuitable by the LAA. Information would be sought on how Eton College proposes to address clear concerns for environment, ecology, transport links, affordability and general highways issues on rural roads.</p>	<p>All in agreement to work alongside neighbouring Parish Councils on the Inter- Council Steering Group and to arrange a meeting with the other Parish Councils and the developers of Eton College.</p>

	<p><i>Chair thanks Cllr Linington for her attendance and support of Hamsey Parish Council. Cllr Linington departs the meeting.</i></p>	
03.21.8.1	<p>Beechwood Hall – Cllr’s McBrown’s report can be viewed online Cllr McBrown announces that the new Road Map Steps from the Government have been reviewed by AIRS and as such the Tennis Courts can reopen on the 29th March. The new Water Fountain is hoped to be in situ by then too. The hall can reopen its doors again to Children’s classes as of the 12th April and the main reopening to meetings and exercise classes, parties etc shall be on the 17th May – if agreed in the Government’s review.</p>	
03.21.8.2	<p>Cllr McBrown asks all for their opinion in the location of the pizza van when the hall reopens on a Tuesday evening a Choir book the hall for singing practice. Concerns over disruption from the pizza van are highlighted as well as the continuation of rubbish being left on the grounds at Beechwood Hall. Cllr Fleming stated this may be an opportunity to raise awareness over the environmental damage caused by litter.</p>	<p>All in agreement to allow the pizza van to set up in the over flow car park when the Choir resumes, monitor the noise and ask the pizza van to do a litter check after serving customers</p>
03.21.8.3	<p>Cllr McBrown referred to a previous suggestion of installing a sign at Beechwood Hall with a list of rules and asked Cllr Henry to help. Cllr Henry in agreement suggested that this could be a project to involve the Beechwood Hall Working Group and a meeting shall be set up. The sign shall be a welcoming sign, incorporated with key messaging on litter disposal, a focus on recycling and providing interesting facts about the area to include native species, trees and visual signs with background information on the hall being donated by the Shiffner family for recreational use by the Parish. Hopes will be that this encourages visitors to look after the valuable space we are lucky to have. Cllr Croft asked whether we could put a call out on the community Facebook pages to see if anyone has any knowledge of the ecology and native species to use as information on the sign.</p>	<p>Cllr Henry and Cllr McBrown to arrange a meeting for Beechwood Hall Working Group.</p>
03.21.8.4	<p>Cllr Henry has been working on a Safeguarding policy for Beechwood Hall to ensure we comply with regulation and the Charity Commissions Trust. Cllr Henry has flagged our existing policy needs a few changes to be made, to incorporate hirers needing their own policies, relevant checks for DBS and a Safeguarding Statement shall be added to Beechwood Hall website once the policy is finalised. Cllr Fleming asked Cllr McBrown whether hirers providing classes need their own insurance cover to which the answer is yes they need to be covering their students/ attendees for public liability under their own insurances.</p>	
03.21.8.5	<p>Cllr Fleming discusses the possibility of having a community event to celebrate overcoming the difficulties of the past year and bring the community together. Suggestions are for a Sunday afternoon early September. Entertainment for the children of the Parish with games, food vans to attend, music, a bar and enjoyment for all. Chair states that Hamsey school PTA have been involved in the past for tombola and a bar, plus St Peter’s Church normally sell tea and cake. Details shall be confirmed later on but a date of Sunday 5th September has been pencilled in. TBC once Cllr McBrown has confirmation on wedding dates.</p>	<p>TBC once Cllr McBrown has confirmation on wedding dates.</p>

03.21.8.6	<p>Cllr McBrown has been asked by a new resident to hire the hall for a charity fundraiser event – Cllr McBrown has offered her four free hours to go towards the hiring. All in favour to charge the lower price of the residents’ hourly rates of £10p/h plus set up and set down times free of charge on this occasion if they can plan it for a Sunday afternoon. Chair has offered to help promote the event on social media.</p>	<p>Cllr McBrown to liaise with hirer for dates.</p>
03.21.9	<p>Council noted correspondence received since the last meeting and any action required – none</p>	
03.21.10	<p>Council considered any meeting attended – A brief side note from Cllr Fleming that the new Councillor Training Course did not have the best delivery.</p>	
03.21.11	<p>Highways and Traffic Issues – Report available online Cllr Fleming has had confirmation that the path siding works from Hamsey school to the Rainbow inn have been completed. The Highways team have done a great job but could possibly have taken the path a foot wider in places to accommodate pedestrians more safely on the stretch of path. Chair mentions that we suggest to ESCC to use a widening machine as described by a local landowner to carry out future path widening if required.</p>	
03.21.12.1	<p>Parking Issues – Chair explains ParkPals to Cllr Redwood and the aim to relieve the pressures of parking issues within the community and the School. Cllr McBrown has received concerns over a resident currently residing in a caravan in Chandler’s Mead garage area.</p>	
03.21.12.2	<p>Cllr Henry gave an update to all on the parking situation at Chatfield Close. Any day now the residents shall be taking over as Directors of the communal areas and intend to hold a meeting next week to discuss the management of the communal parking spaces. The hope is to change the stipulation in the restrictions to allow campervans to park in the communal spaces. Cllr Henry will provide an update.</p>	
03.21.13.1	<p>Council considered Rail and Bus issues – Cllr Henry informed all that a meeting between Ian Ginn of Cooksbridge Station Partnership and herself with Network Rail was scheduled for the evening of the 4th March to investigate the impact of the noise vibrations from the freight trains passing through Cooksbridge. The train unfortunately came early and the vibrations could not be felt. At present the vibration equipment is being used in a different area but shall be passed to Hamsey Parish Council to be placed in the homes of volunteers to measure the vibrations. On assessment of the results, the matter shall be investigated further. Concerns were flagged that the train weight may be the cause of the issue but this shall be determined after assessment.</p>	
03.21.13.2	<p>Thanks, are given to Ian Ginn for his lobbying of improved Cycle racks now being granted to Cooksbridge Station. The Cycle racks will be installed at the station and allow 16 bikes to be</p>	

<p>03.21.13.3</p> <p>03.21.14</p> <p>03.21.15</p> <p>03.21.16.1</p> <p>03.21.16.2</p> <p>03.21.17</p>	<p>securely stored rather than the initial 4 bikes. Ian has also secured a hand rail at the station for improved safety and accessibility. This shall be installed soon.</p> <p>Gardening at the station can recommence soon and volunteers are needed please. Only those that can offer a commitment to time though please as permits for each person need to be obtained.</p> <p>Neighbourhood/Police issues – Cllr Mcbrown states that she has not received any correspondence regarding any policing issues. Chair explains that there has been some recurrence of anti-social and concerning behaviour by an individual in Cooksbridge between 5.30 and 6am, and police are aware. Extra police presence is planned for this time. The situation is being monitored whilst further community response is being considered.</p> <p>Environment – Report can be viewed online Chair remarked how impressive Cllr Fleming and Cllr Croft's efforts in setting up the Environmental Working Group are. Cllr Fleming and Cllr Croft both state that they have a wonderful group of volunteers, with a combination of great skills keen to get stuck in to environmental matters. Lots of projects are in the pipeline and everyone is welcome to get involved.</p> <p>General Improvements to the Parish – Correspondence has been received and highlighted by a few residents that the area by the phone box and entrance into Chandler's Mead, could do with improvements by way of benches, hedges and small trees. The Parish Council are looking into options and making enquiries. Suggestion of sponsored benches throughout the Parish for people to remember their loved ones is favourable.</p> <p>Both Parish parks are due to have the annual inspections carried out in the next few weeks. Malthouse Way in particular needs some attention. Chair has liaised with a local resident that shares the park fence boundary to arrange tree maintenance and a volunteer group shall need to be arranged to organise a clear up. Cllr Redwood has offered to arrange a working group to facilitate the clear up. Upon inspection the park shall be reviewed as to what equipment, deemed to be 20+ years can be saved or whether a new park should be looked at. Sad news that the beloved Stella from Malthouse way has recently passed away. Thoughts and condolences are with the family. Neighbours would like to pay tribute to Stella by way of a bench in her name placed in the park area, a place where Stella loved to sit and enjoy the children playing. Stella shall be dearly missed by all especially the local bin men who enjoyed the cups of tea she kindly made for them.</p> <p>Broadband Issues throughout the Parish – Cllr Croft gives the update that Hamsey residents had been invited to participate in a joint application to accelerate delivery of super-fast broadband to our area. A majority of residents in the Hamsey area were keen and had signed up to get fibre</p>	<p>Any volunteers willing to spend some time to help with the gardening at the station, please contact Cllr Henry at carolynhamseypc@gmail.com</p> <p>The Railway Land Project are looking for available space to plant trees – if you are interested please contact Cllr Fleming or Cllr Croft on: Sueflehamseypc@gmail.com or carolinehamseypc@gmail.com</p> <p>Chair, Cllrs Fleming and Croft to explore options including initial design proposals</p> <p>Chair to liaise with Malthouse Way residents to form a working group for a playground clean-up. Cllr McBrown to look into options for new equipment subject to the inspection results.</p> <p>Cllr Fleming to ask for details from Cllr Ruth O'Keefe regarding playground funding.</p> <p>Chair to investigate grant funding.</p>
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	<p>direct to households via a new provider using vouchers that were available. However, when the joint application was submitted, it became apparent that the new provider could not act in an area designated for work by OpenReach. We are therefore not able to take this further and will have to wait for Openreach to deliver fibre to the area on their own timescales. There is no confirmation yet as to when this shall be</p> <p>Clerk informs all that the upcoming temporary road closure on Old Hamsey Lane on 21st April-23rd April is so Open Reach can carry out improvement works.</p> <p>03.21.18 Council considered the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic- Chair and Cllr McBrown both stated that things have been quiet of late. The Hamsey Responders group is still operating for anyone in need. Beechwood Hall continues to receive updates from AIRS of the revised Government regulations on re-opening the hall.</p> <p>03.21.19 Council considered GDPR requirements- Cllr Henry has been researching and working on a GDPR policy and hopes to have this available for discussion at the next Council meeting.</p> <p>03.21.20 Items to note on a future agenda – none</p> <p>03.21.21 Future meeting dates: The next meeting date scheduled for May 13th 2021 to hold the APM followed by the Parish Council meeting was discussed. The ability to hold virtual meetings under the Coronavirus Act 2020 is due to expire on May 6th 2021, whereby remote meetings shall no longer be lawful unless the law is changed. At present organisations such as Nalc are lobbying for an extension on the ruling but as such it was felt best practice to move the date of the APM and meeting to 19th May to allow for the revision in the Government’s Road Map steps in order that members of the public may also attend the meetings if they wish. The date is to be confirmed upon clarification of the law.</p> <p>Agreement of dates by all for: 15th July, 9th September, 11th November 2021.</p> <p>Chair thanked all for attending and finished the meeting at 10.00pm.</p> <p>Prepared by Mrs N Kinch – Clerk/RFO on 12.03.21</p>	
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Signed.....Chair Date

Reports for meeting on 11.03.21

Planning Report

Consultations

Lewes District Council has been consulting with parishes for our views on their proposed methodology for assessing housing sites that are submitted by landowners in response to LDC's recent Call for Sites. LDC's assessment of these sites will be used for the planning department's Land Availability Assessment, elements of which will form part of the Lewes Local Plan Part 2, which shows sites considered suitable for development.

LDC were also consulting parishes on their proposed Interim Statement, which is intended to bridge the gap between LDC's 5 year old Local Plan Part 1, and an updated version.

LDC is speaking with parishes more this time around in order to glean more local information about possible sites.

Housing targets

LDC says, 'The Lewes Local Plan Part 1: Joint Core Strategy with South Downs National Park (SDNP) (LPP1) was adopted on 11th May 2016 after being found sound at Examination in Public. LPP1 contains the vision and strategic policies for the whole District including the SDNP, and sets a district-wide housing requirement of 345 homes per year in Spatial Policies 1 and 2. However, as a result of a legal challenge, the housing requirement in LPP1 was disaggregated to provide a net housing requirement of 275 homes per year outside of the National Park over the period to 2030. 2.2 Since the adoption of the LPP1, the Government has made a number of changes to the planning system and published revisions to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance. Most significantly, the Government has introduced a new standard method for calculating local housing need and has instructed local planning authorities to identify a five year supply of housing land sufficient to meet this housing need when their adopted strategic policies are more than five years old. 2.3 As a result of LPP1 reaching its fifth anniversary of adoption in May 2021, the District's five year housing land supply will be calculated against the local housing need figure, as calculated by the standard method, rather than against the figures set out in Spatial Policies 1 and 2 above. 2.4 Under the current standard method the local housing need for the whole District in May 2021 is expected to be in the region of 782 homes per annum.'

Work is underway to consult on Call for Sites methodology, and feedback on sites themselves. An interim statement was consulted on, and Hamsey PC responded to say that we do not agree with building outside the planning boundary, and will object to applications which disregards this and other policies within the adopted Hamsey Neighbourhood Plan. Hamsey PC raised concerns about the unsustainable increase in the housing target, and foremost among other concerns, about the lack of truly affordable housing.

Sites put forward to LDC within Hamsey Parish

Hamsey PC have prepared detailed feedback to provide to LDC Planners in relation to all sites put forward within the parish.

Sites (**not** including those in the national park) include:

	Size	Type	Number of houses
Land south of Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge, Hamsey (The Platt)	0.7	Residential	12
Plot situated at Hamsey in Sussex County (North End, Hamsey)	0.19	Residential	5
Land east and west of A275, north of Cooksbridge (Fields between Chatfield Cl./Hamsey Lane and The Rainbow Inn)	8.8	Residential	175
Land at McBeans Orchid nursery	1.28	Residential	30
Land north of Hamsey Lane ((Fields between Chatfield Cl./Hamsey Lane and The Rainbow Inn)	4	Residential	65
Land at the Old Hamsey Brickworks, South Road	0.76	Residential	20
Springles Farm	36	Residential	200
Land at the Old Hamsey Brickworks, South Road (Lakeside Custom Builds)	2	Residential	12
Land east of A275, Old Hamsey Brickworks, South Chailey	1.7	Residential	50
Land South of Beechwood Lane (field South of Beechwood Hall)	1.2	Residential	14

It should be noted that whilst many additional sites have come forward and a considerable increase in numbers, most sites will be considered unsuitable for development. Also noted is that sometimes sites considered unsuitable for housing do go on to be developed (eg. Hamsey Brickworks).

An additional Site that HPC will comment on is:

EC11 Eton College, North Barnes Farm

Planning Proposal for 3,000 houses on Eton land at North Barnes Farm, East Chiltonton

East Chiltonton Parish Council brought this to Hamsey PCs attention as this huge proposed development would affect traffic, views and tranquillity in all parishes.

An Inter-Parish Steering group has been formed to share information and plan responses. HPC is curious as to how some respected local professionals with previous eco-credentials are endorsing this.

Hamsey Parish Environment Working Group

Report to HPC meeting of 11 March 2021

The working group was set up in the Autumn of 2020 and will have met three times by the Parish Council meeting of 11 March. It has been enthusiastically attended and now has 26 active members from across Hamsey, Offham and Cooksbridge. The collective group decision was to be called. **Sustainable Hamsey**, with a line below saying: representing the Environments of Cooksbridge, Hamsey, Offham and Bevernbridge, as on the Newsletter.

We have signalled our interest in Sustainable Hamsey being part of the CARES Ouse valley environment project when it starts shortly.

We now have a **map of the Parish** with ownership detailed, which is great for planning purposes.

Because of the size of the group, the pandemic restrictions limiting us to on-line meetings and the urgency of the climate crisis, we took the decision to divide into smaller actions groups to identify issues and take rapid action.

The focus of the different action subgroups is currently as follows:

Biodiversity/Rewilding Action Subgroup

Rewilding Old Hamsey churchyard - Bob Doran and Rev Anne Dunlop kindly joined a meeting to outline plans for rewilding areas of the east and west graveyards. Ecological surveys have already taken place - fascinating findings and documentation are available and are no doubt of interest to the wider community.

Currently the grass is cut every month from March to October, which limits growth of wildflowers and habitat for insects and mammals. New arrangements are being discussed with contractors whereby the area will be fully cut in March. Thereafter cutting will be limited to paths every month until some strimming is done in July and a full cut takes place in October. The Church Council is to be asked for their agreement. Locals will be informed by Anne in case of objections, and consideration will be given to mourners who will want safe to access graves. If the Council gives the green light, volunteer help will be needed please to rake the cuttings in October.

The compost area needs thinking about as it currently has non-compostable waste left on it. We have proposed that the vegetation compost from the churchyard be relocated and the bank could be cleared of rubbish but used as a perfect bank for wildflowers and wildlife. We wait to hear back from the Parochial Council meeting. **An Action Day** at the church will be confirmed.

The group wondered whether other measures could be taken to attract hedgehogs and other animals to the area. We are looking for someone to liaise with Hamsey

Primary School about this project and other initiatives undertaken by the group, to see if the children can be involved.

Rewilding gardens - the group think it would be great to encourage people to re-wild an area of their garden with a view to creating a patchwork of rewilding areas and wildlife corridors such as **hedgehog highways** across the area. Sarah has offered to write an article in Hamsey News and will speak to the editor Sally.

Suzie offered to create leaflets and posters to increase awareness of the various projects, encourage people to join in and point them to useful resources and websites. We may want to get leaflets into bookbags, onto noticeboards, Hamsey Facebook etc. Sarah offered to write a leaflet to be circulated before the next meeting. Suzie suggested using Elephant Graphics in Barcombe who are green sustainable printers.

Wildflowers - the group would like to look at planting wildflowers at the SDNP sign and in Cooksbridge across from the station. Caroline and Sue are checking current planting plans and arrangements near the phone box. Caroline is contacting Highways and the Southdown National Park about wildflower planting permissions and possible grants. Sarah has contacted Wildflower Lewes and is waiting to hear back.

Tree planting - the group is exploring the possibility of a small community orchard at Beechwood Hall and looking for opportunities for further tree planting in the autumn. To be discussed with HPC

The next meeting of the Biodiversity/ Rewilding sub group is on **Tuesday 23 March at 6pm.**

Sustainable Transport Group

A small sub group of 6 of us met on Feb 23rd. The general agreement was to focus on creating viable foot and cycle paths between Lewes and Hamsey. There are currently 3 options we discussed:

- 1. The Landport Ouse River path**
- 2. The Old coach road coming from Landport Allotments to Offham Church.**
- 3. The Malling Bridge over the river**

1.The Environment Agency has started work on the river path with funding from SDNP. It is still very muddy and problematic but extremely popular for walking. It may not be suitable for all year cycling. The work stopped due to winter weather & Corona virus.

Tamsyn is in consultation again with Glyn Watts from E.A. and HPC have been able to offer a small financial contribution if needed. Chris Yarrow has been instrumental in getting this path constructed. He is invited to our next zoom meeting. **Wednesday 17th March.** All welcome.

2.Old Coach road: We thought this the most hopeful cycle route to avoid the Offham bends that deter less intrepid cyclists. We want to explore ideas with the community, LDC and landowners.

3. There is a proposal to reinstate the **Malling– Hamsey church bridge**, over the river on the route of the old Railway line. This was favoured in HPC report on the Cycling & Walking Strategy. It partly depends on what happens and when, with the Old Malling Farm housing development.

Renewable Energy Group

The Renewable Energy subgroup has met at least once and has been actively communicating by email. Their initial focus was on the possibility of harnessing the power of the Ouse at the cut in Hamsey to generate electricity for local houses. Ovesco and a local hydro engineer were consulted and it was concluded that the cost and technical considerations would be prohibitive.

The group is now looking at windpower. The brand new idea that has not yet been discussed in the full working group is to find sites within the Parish that would be suitable for a landscape sensitive grouping rather like ancient stone circles, for example of Savonius vertical turbines about 10 metres in height - tree scale, if you like. They have a great sculptural quality, which could incorporate a canopy of PVs below, have a timber supporting column with climbing plants, they're quiet and don't upset birds so much. A German outfit, luvside.de, has one nominally rated at 3kw, so a few sensitively located groups of, say, ten each could make a contribution to match a Glyndebourne-size propellor. Avenues in wildlife corridors, or marking the Greenwich meridian are other locational ideas.

Sue Fleming Report back to HPC meeting 11. 03. 2021

I attended:

Social Media Zoom: 19 January. It gave advice on creating secure public profile and access to accounts. Good ways of networking, selecting content, updating and signposting to council services & building up conversations. Facebook is still the most popular form of communication.

New councillors' course: 21 January.

Lewes Climate Hub: 14 February, creating small wild areas to increase biodiversity in gardens. Wildflower planting advice.

LDC Walking & Cycling forum: 25th February. Cycle Lewes and LDC are supportive and interested in our rural perspective linking up north of Lewes. The lack of safe cycling & walking routes is now recognised as a major concern in all transport consultations.

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-transport-rural-strategy>)

An interview with Matilda Sjoberg from LD Food Partnership & Sussex Community Development Association looking at food security in our rural community. This will be a useful ongoing contact.

Highways: I am pleased to say the path from the Rainbow to the school has been cut back by Highways.

Beechwood Hall Report

The veranda roof has been repaired. Natalie and myself have also completed the risk assessments. Good news we are able to reopen the hall on the 17th of May. Also, on that day we are hoping to have the water filling station fitted. The multi court can reopen at the end of this month so we have decided to put the tennis nets up. The all-weather path is still in the pipeline. A big thank you to Christine as she agreed to be our new treasurer.

Kate