



WEST HOATHLY PARISH COUNCIL

representing Highbrook, Selsfield, Sharpthorne, Tyes Cross and West Hoathly

Asset and Highways Committee Clerks Report November 2022

Actions taken and other points of information since last meeting.

- Public Conveniences: The chain in the ladies has been repaired and the leak to the men's toilet has been fixed.
- Finche Field Steps repair work has been completed and the steps have now reopened. There are still a couple of outstanding alterations to be made to extend the handrail to the full length of the steps and to paint the white nosing to the leading edge of the steps. This will be done shortly.
- The handyman has ordered the fencing needed to make the repairs required in Finche Field and will fix in due course.
- The erosion of the road edge on Church Hill opposite Finche Field Steps was reported to WSCC. If repairs are required, it will be a 28-day repair.
- The laurel hedge encroaching on the footpath on Top Road (opposite Bulldogs Bank) was reported to WSCC. The reported was closed and the following comments were provided: We are governed by our intervention levels as set out in our Highway Inspection Manual which states vegetation must be cut back within 28 days if it is blocking the footway by 33% or more and/or less than 1.2m of footway available. I found no defects which meet this criteria but I will continue to monitor.
- The Clerk met with the Elaine Clarke from MSDC to agree the location for the About the Place public art project waymarker to be installed. It was agreed that it will be installed near to the Local History Sign but closer to the path so that it is visible from the car park.
- The condition of bridleway 43WH has been reported to the PROW team (issue 39062)

Information relating to items on the agenda

Finche Field & Allotments

Extension of fencing near steep steps in Finche Field:

The handyman has suggested it may be more straightforward to extend the post and rail fencing along the edge of steep drop, opposed to installing wires to the concrete posts.

Item 7 –

The tender documents were sent to 5 contractors:

Countrymans Contractors Ltd (Recommended by Turners Hill Parish Council)

Enterprise (Recommended by Turners Hill Parish Council)

Orchard Landscapes (Recommended by Maresfield Parish Council)

Barcombe Landscapes (Current Contractor)

Countrywide(Recommended by Plumpton PC)

Responses have been received from two contractors to date. The closing date is Friday 11th November. Quotes received have been emailed to councillors.

Budget Considerations

Wildflower meadow

The recommendation is to start small to begin with. If the council wish to consider a larger area, it is recommended that a soil test is completed. If the soil is too rich and fertile it can be difficult or impossible to achieve a wildflower meadow. The area needs to have lots of sunshine, it is recommended to avoid shaded sites under trees.

The initial steps are to remove the top growth of grass to expose and scarify some soil before sowing. On a small scale this can be done with a lawnmower and on a larger scale with a flail mower.

More information is available here: [Plantlife-The-Good-meadow-guide-English WEB.pdf](#)

The committee need to consider whether to budget for this project

Tree Survey

The last tree survey was completed in 2017. The committee need to consider whether to budget for an updated the survey. A specification would need to be agreed before quotes are obtained.

The clerk has identified a list of qualified arboriculturists in the area

[Arboricultural Association - Registered Consultant Directory \(trees.org.uk\)](#)

Rocks at The Hollow

November 2022