

NOTES ON A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP (EWG)

Attendees: Cllrs Ed Langridge (EL) and John Turner (JT)

In attendance: Catherine Barrett (CB) Administrative Assistant and Chris May (CM) Clerk

Apologies for absence received from: Cllr Neil Barrington-Johnson (N B-J), Cllr Dave Pate (DP) and Cllr Ben Scarbrough (BS)

25th January 2021 via zoom

1. Election of a Chairman

It was agreed that JT would take on the role of Chairman. He would review the existing Terms of Reference (ToR) and liaise with CM and CB about making any changes.

The Clerk advised that since this was a working group rather than a committee, the chairman had more freedom to decide how it worked and functioned.

2. Review of the last Environment Working Group (EWG) meeting minutes

The minutes of 29th October 2018 were reviewed and EL suggested that plastic recycling should remain a priority, since this was still an issue in Tunbridge Wells borough.

3. Discussion of a recent briefing by Susan Carey, KCC Cabinet Member for Environment

After some discussion, it was agreed that several initiatives outlined in the KCC briefing could potentially inform part 3 of JT's remit for the EWG. EL requested that CB investigate funding for tree planting in the parish as part of KCC's Trees outside of Woodlands project.

4. Identification of potential EWG priorities for the year ahead.

JT laid out some initial thoughts, starting with the question "what are we here for?" He suggested that the EWG's remit should be to help and improve the environment where we live and that this should be broken down into 3 key areas:

- Improve our AONB and wildlife areas.
- Support specific national and local government policy, eg. initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint as a parish.
- Encourage community to get involved.

It was decided that JT would complete the ToR, and email the group for feedback.

5. Date for a follow up meeting with EWG Members of Public

This would be put on hold until the initial work on the ToR had been completed and feedback obtained from Councillors. Existing and potential new MoP would then be contacted individually to ask if they would like to be involved, and a meeting date set.

The meeting closed at 8:02pm.