

RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES: of the Monthly Meeting held on 24 January 2022

PRESENT: Councillors G Tyler (Vice-Chairman - In the Chair), Mrs C Broomfield, M Broomfield, Mrs K Callaghan, M Clayden, A Cooper, Mrs S Partridge, Ms M Revell, D Rogers and J Street

In attendance: Mrs C Ward (Clerk of the Council) and Ms R Costan (Deputy Clerk of the Council)

The Vice-Chairman reminded those present that capacity in the John de Bohun Room was currently limited due to the ongoing Government Covid-19 guidance on social distancing and, therefore, attendance by Members of the Public had to be booked in advance. He said that the Clerk had confirmed that no such requests had been received.

He then reminded Members that a further amended Conditions of Attendance for Members and Officers at the Meeting had been previously circulated, a copy of which is attached and forms a part of these Minutes.

1/22 CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING

In the absence of Councillor Mrs Cooper, Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Tyler, Chaired the Meeting.

2/22 THE LATE MRS MARY TAYLOR, BEM

The Vice-Chairman referred to the recent sad passing of Mrs Mary Taylor, BEM.

He then paid tribute to Mrs Taylor, reminding Members that she was best known for being the Official Historian for the Village since 1987, along with her husband Bev. He said that Mary had been a Member of the Council in the 1980s and had founded the Rustington Heritage Association in 1983.

Mary was born and bred in Rustington and in 1998, Mary and Bev had been awarded the Parishioners' Award in recognition of their unceasing commitment to the community, both past and present, and the Village itself. This commitment was further acknowledged at the highest possible level in 2012, when she was honoured with the British Empire Medal for her services to Rustington.

He also reminded the Council that, along with the late Harry Clark, Mary had officially opened the Museum in 2019 at its new home in the Samuel Wickens Centre.

He concluded by saying that Mary would be sorely missed, and would be remembered as a 'stalwart of the Village' with a 'mind of information' which would probably be extremely difficult to equal in the future.

The Council was saddened to NOTE this information and expressed its heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to Mary's husband, Bev, sons, Graham and Andrew and all of the family.

The Council then observed a one-minute period of silence in memory of Mrs Taylor.

Councillor Rogers then referred to the outstanding contribution Mrs Taylor had made to the Village for the benefit of the community and for generations to come, and suggested that the Council should consider the possibility of placing a permanent memorial for her at an appropriate location in the Village.

The Clerk said that she had already had a brief discussion with Mary's son, Graeme, as the family was hoping, in accordance with Mary's wishes, that a permanent memorial would be able to be installed in the

Village. She said that she would report back to the Council, as soon as any further discussions had taken place.

Councillor Rogers said that he would very much like to be involved in any future discussions with Mary's family in this regard.

The Council was happy to NOTE this information.

3/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bennett (Indisposition), Ceiriog-Hughes (Indisposition), Mrs Cooper (Other Associated Business), Mrs Gregory (Other Associated Business), Grevett (Personal) and Warren (Personal). These apologies were accepted by the Council.

4/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Tyler declared a prejudicial and pecuniary interest in Minute 12/22(c) (Minute 6/22 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting - 24 January 2022). In the absence of any discussion on this item he remained in the Meeting but took no part in the vote thereon.

Councillor Street declared a personal interest in Minute 22/22. He remained in the Meeting during consideration of this item and took part in the discussion thereon.

5/22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 22 November 2021 were signed by the Vice-Chairman as a correct record.

6/22 SUSSEX POLICE

Apologies for absence had been received from Inspector Durkan, PCSO Mrs Pipkin and PCSO Godfrey.

The Clerk reported that, during the past week, an individual had again been reported as 'begging' outside Tesco Express in The Street, Rustington.

She said that Members of the Arun District Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team had engaged with the individual in question and had established that the female concerned was not in fact homeless, but was currently experiencing a number of personal issues, which were now being addressed with the Housing Department at the District Council.

The Clerk also advised that, to date, the notes of the last Focus Group Meeting which had taken place on 26 November 2021 had yet to be received.

The Council NOTED this information.

7/22 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Gunner and Tilbrook.

The Vice-Chairman advised the Council that the following Report had been received and previously circulated on behalf of Councillors Bennett, Mrs Gregory and Tilbrook on the following District Council issues:-

- *This month's Full Council Meeting was unfortunately postponed due to the pandemic so will be taking place this Wednesday*

- *Interim Chief Executive Officer CEO, James Hassett, has been in place for a number of months and appears to be working well with Councillors and Officers. He has met with all Committee Chairs. The CEO Recruitment Panel has undertaken its interviews and the decisions to hire a new permanent CEO and a new Interim Monitoring Officer will take place at this week's Meeting*
- *Recent Council Meetings have been undertaken in a more collegiate manner and are not taking as long as over previous months. This may be due to the return to in-person working or the transition to the Committee System*
- *The next stage of the A27 Arundel bypass consultation is ongoing until 8 March and everyone is encouraged to respond as getting the bypass delivered would have a positive economic impact on the whole district. A Special Meeting of Full Council has been called for 3 March to discuss the issue*
- *At the most recent Standards Meeting a number of changes were made to the hearings and local assessment procedures to bring them in line with latest LGA best practice and other Authorities. For example, the monitoring may now be allowed to undertake a parallel standards investigation alongside a Police Investigation if the circumstances require it. Full details can be found at Agenda Item 9 of the most recent Standards Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2021.*

The Council NOTED all of the above information and recorded thanks and appreciation to Councillors Bennett, Mrs Gregory and Tilbrook for their Report.

Councillor Cooper referred to the postponement of the Full Council Meeting and advised the Council that the Meeting was in fact postponed as a result of certain procedural issues for which clarification was being sought.

The Council NOTED this information.

8/22 COUNTY COUNCILLORS

In the absence of County Councillor Mrs Cooper, the Vice-Chairman advised the Council that the following Report had been received and previously circulated on the following County Council issues:-

- *You will have all been circulated the News Releases, and I hope they are all of interest to you*
- *At the Health and Social Care Committee last week, NHS dentistry provided an update on the position in West Sussex. The Committee made many recommendations around the subject of access and backlog due to the pandemic. The Minutes will be out soon, or the Meeting is available to view online*
- *The next big item coming up is obviously the Budget, which is across all tiers of local Government. At County Council a Presentation will be made for a balanced Budget which will include a proposed Revenue Budget of £648 Million and a proposed Capital Expenditure Budget of £755 Million*
- *A 2.99% increase is proposed and could equate to a £45.18 (on a band D property) which is 87p per week*
- *Commitments in line with the Council Plan are:*

Climate change: investment of £10 Million to deliver on the Carbon Net Zero Strategy

Adult Social Care: Large investments to protect market sustainability of care and support

Children's Services: Varying investments towards the increase in demand, and importantly the Fostering redesign. Also, help for children's emotional wellbeing and mental health services. Further investment for the Children First Programme

Highways: An additional investment of £2.6 Million, most of which will satisfy critical areas. A capital investment £21 Million for the road maintenance programme

The Budget will be debated at Full Council on 18 February 2022.

The Council NOTED the above information and recorded its thanks and appreciation to County Councillor Mrs Cooper.

9/22 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk said that she had nothing to report at the present time.

10/22 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In the absence of the Chairman, the Clerk reported on her behalf in respect of her official representation and attendance at Meetings, Events and Functions since the last Monthly Meeting as follows:-

- Rustington WI - Official Opening of Winter Fayre - 4 December 2021
- Judging of Christmas Shop Window Competition - 11 December 2021
- WSALC Chairman's Meeting - 13 January 2022
- WSALC Board Meeting - 21 January 2022

The Council NOTED this information.

11/22 PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP/COMMITTEE

The Council NOTED the Reports of the Planning Advisory Group Meetings held on 16 November 2021 and 1 December 2021, together with the Report of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 20 December 2021.

12/22 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

(a) Report of Meeting held on 20 December 2021

The Council received the Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 20 December 2021.

The Council RESOLVED that the Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 20 December 2021 be APPROVED.

(b) Precept - 2022/2023

The Council AUTHORISED the issue of the Precept on the Arun District Council in the sum of £690,000.00 for 2022/2023.

(Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor Tyler had declared a prejudicial and pecuniary interest, as Mr P Collins was his son-in-law - Minute 6/22 refers)

(c) Report of Meeting held on 24 January 2022

The Council received the Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 24 January 2022. (Verbal Report from the Chairman of the Committee).

The Council RESOLVED that the Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 24 January 2022 be APPROVED.

13/22 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS - 2-5 JUNE 2022

(a) Report of Public Meeting held on 17 January 2022

The Council NOTED the Report of the Public Meeting held on 17 January 2022.

Councillor Street advised the Council that he would, in a personal capacity, be assuming the role of Comperer at the Rustington Residents Association's (in conjunction with Rustington Players) 'Rustington's Got Talent' Event as part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on 5 June 2022.

The Council was pleased to NOTE this information.

(b) Applications for Financial Assistance towards Celebratory Events

The Clerk referred to Minute 252/21 and said that she had previously circulated details of the Grants awarded by the Working Party up to 18 January 2022.

The Council retrospectively APPROVED the Grants awarded by the Working Party up to 18 January 2022 as follows:-

- Friends of Angmering Station (ArtWorks) - Art Competition - £60.00
- The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul - Flower Festival - £200.00
- Rustington Residents Association (in conjunction with Rustington Players) - Rustington's Got Talent - £200.00
- Littlehampton District Lions Club - Quiz Night - £100.00
- St Peter and St Paul's Pantry - 'Kings and Queens' Lunch Parties - £200.00

14/22 COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The Clerk referred to Minute 204/21 (Monthly Council Meeting - 27 September 2021 refers) recommending that a Working Party be appointed to progress an Action Plan in this regard.

Following a brief discussion, the Council RESOLVED that a Working Party should be set up to progress this matter.

It was further AGREED that Councillors Bennett, Mrs Cooper, Ms Revell, Street and Tyler should be appointed as the Members of the Working Party, with a Meeting being convened in the near future to consider the way forward.

15/22 NUMBER 12 BUS SERVICE

The Council NOTED the Number 12 Bus Service Statistics for November/December 2021.

16/22 FUTURE OF THE CHAUCERY MEMORIAL

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by the Chairman of The Chaucery Memorial Group at the end of the previous year, to advise her that it was very likely that the Group would be disbanding in early

2022, and was requesting that the Council assume full responsibility for the future maintenance and upkeep of the Memorial. She said that the Group had in the region of £2,500.00 which, following agreement from all Members of the Group at a soon to be convened Annual General Meeting, would be transferred to the Council to be used towards its future retention.

Following a discussion, the Council RESOLVED that it would be happy to assume full responsibility to maintain The Chaucery Memorial for the foreseeable future, subject to the funds currently held by the Group being transferred to the Council to be offset against all costs for as long as affordably possible.

17/22 ANNUAL PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE OF AMENITY AREAS CONTRACT 2022-2025

The Council considered a Report from the Clerk of the Council, together with a Quotation, contained within a detailed Schedule, received from Ferring Nurseries in the sum of £46,312.26 excluding VAT per annum, commencing on 1 April 2022 for a period of 3 years.

Following a detailed discussion, the Council RESOLVED that Financial Regulation 11.1(a)(vi), referred to in Standing Order No. 18(c), namely:-

“Procedures as to Contracts are laid down as follows:

Every Contract shall comply with these Financial Regulations, and no exceptions shall be made otherwise than in an emergency provided that this regulation need not apply to Contracts which relate to items (i) to (vi) below:

- (iv) For work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which constitute an extension of an existing Contract by the Council”

be waived in view of the overwhelming success of the existing Contract, coupled with the standard of service received, which is evident from the past achievements in the Entente Florale, Britain in Bloom and South and South-East in Bloom Competitions.

The Council also RESOLVED that the Quotation received from Ferring Nurseries in the sum of £46,312.26 excluding VAT per annum, commencing on 1 April 2022 for a period of 3 years be ACCEPTED.

18/22 RUSTINGTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Council NOTED the Association’s January 2022 Newsletter.

19/22 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - A259 IMPROVEMENTS PROGRESS UPDATE NEWSLETTER

The Council NOTED an email received from David Lambert, Project Manager, together with the December 2021 Newsletter.

20/22 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - WEST SUSSEX CHARGEPOINT NETWORK COMMUNITY LANDOWNER’S EVENT - 27 JANUARY 2022

The Clerk said that she had previously circulated an email received from Sue Furlong, Project Manager, Partnership and Communities Team, advising that registration was now open for the Community Landowner’s Event, which was for Town, Parish and Neighbourhood Councils only, via Zoom on 27 January 2022.

She said that in November 2021, the County Council had announced its ambitious West Sussex Chargepoint Network and asked for residents to register their interest providing a local view on where

charge points should be located in the County. The County Council was now interested in hearing from Town & Parish Councils and Village Hall Trusts who owned land for community use.

She also advised that the Contract was a concession contract, meaning that Connected Kerb would incur all of the costs for installing, maintaining and running the network. The way the Contract was structured would give community landowners the opportunity to use it, meaning that Parish, Town and Neighbourhood Councils, or any third sector organisation in the County had the potential to benefit from a chargepoint installation at zero cost.

She concluded by confirming that at the aforementioned Event, those attending would be able to hear about:-

- The County Council's commitment to EV charging
- Detail on the opportunity for community landowners
- Connected Kerb & the Chargepoints
- Delivery timescales
- Registration & assessment

Following a discussion, the Council RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Mrs Cooper and the Deputy Clerk should attend the Event on 27 January 2022 and report back to the Council at the next Meeting.

21/22 WEST SUSSEX ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS LIMITED

(a) Remote Council Meetings

The Clerk referred to Minute 108/21 (Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting - 20 December 2021 refers) and said that she had previously circulated emails from Anna Beams on behalf of Ian Davison, Legal Advisor, and Trevor Leggo, CEO, WSALC Limited.

Mr Davison, in his email, had advised that the Government had said that Councils must continue holding Meetings in person, as it had rejected calls to introduce laws despite the spread of the Omicron variant. He said that Lord Greenhalgh, a Minister of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, confirmed the Policy in response to a written question. He had concluded that in December 2021, the Local Government Association (LGA) had called on Ministers to urgently bring in emergency legislation to enable Councils to return to hybrid Meetings.

The Clerk reminded the Council that letters had been sent to both Sir Peter Bottomley, MP and Ministers, to support NALC and the LGA in their lobbying of the Government on such Meetings.

The Council NOTED this information.

She also added that a recent NALC Newsletter (email dated 21 January 2022) had advised that NALC was supporting a Petition by the Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO) and Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) calling on the Government and Parliament to allow Councils in England to have the choice to meet remotely and was asking Member Councils to sign the Petition via the link provided.

The Council NOTED this information and AGREED that individual Members should take the opportunity to sign the Petition if they so wished.

(b) Civility and Respect Newsletter - November 2021

The Clerk reported that she had previously circulated an email from Trevor Leggo, together with the Newsletter in this regard.

The Council NOTED this information.

(c) **E-Scooters**

The Council NOTED the response from Sussex Police to concerns raised by Member Councils regarding the increased use of E-Scooters as follows:-

Mr Leggo,

I am the staff officer for Assistant Chief Constable Tanya Jones, and she has asked me to provide you with her reply to your email dated 29th December. The reply is from her, however I am sending it to you purely for efficiency purposes.

“Thank you for your email regarding “E-Scooters” and the Police response.

The use of E-Scooters has increased recently with them becoming more commercially available and accessible by people across all parts of the county. It appears that there is an assumption amongst the public that as they are being sold commercially that they are legal and do not require any licensing or other documentation. Additionally a number of formal Government trials allowing the use of “E-Scooters” with specific conditions in other areas of the country have added to this confusion, despite there being no trials taking place within Sussex. Sussex Police initial approach has been to dispel this misunderstanding amongst the public first and foremost rather than move immediately to enforcement.

Whilst there is no specific legislation regarding their use existing legislation around motor vehicles are relevant to them, and are considered “powered transporters”. Therefore for them to be used on public roads lawfully they must meet a number of requirements, including technical standards, payment of vehicle tax, licensing and registration regulations and the use of suitable personal safety equipment. Because of the nature of these devices it is highly unlikely that they will meet these legally required standards and as such the advice we have offered to all users is that they can only be used legally on private land (that is land that is not accessible to the public) and not on public roads, cycle lanes or pavements. We have found that most owners do not realise this and so proper engagement with them by local Officers and PCSO’s in many cases is an effective way to approaching this. We recognise that these vehicles can travel at some speed, whether on a dedicated pavement or cycle path, or indeed on a road, and then this brings danger to the user themselves, as well as other pedestrians and road users. The same could be said for motorised mobility scooters, and a recent East Sussex IAG provided feedback to us that they felt mobility scooters were more of a hazard than E-Scooters, but we fully recognise that both carry risks.

The powers Police have to deal with these offences is limited by the fact that fixed penalty notices, which would often be used for similar offences for other more common road vehicles can not be used for “E-Scooters” as there is no registration mark or similar that can be used in prosecuting those offences in that way. Recognising that the increased use in “E-Scooters” is relatively new we have encouraged officers and PCSO’s to engage and explain with users to educate them about the law, and the requirements they need to meet. Also, we are conscious that many will be generally law abiding people, and there is a line to be walked between policing by consent, legitimacy and all the other issues and crimes that need addressing. Part of this was distributing a flyer with that information, and I attach a copy.

Beyond this Officers have the power to issue a warning under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act if the vehicle is being used in a manner which causes alarm, distress or annoyance, and if the vehicle is used again in a similar manner it can be seized. This does have practical implications due to the lack of the registration mark, however the warning can be issued to the person, rather than the vehicle. Officers then have all other usual powers to report persons for summons if other Road Traffic Legislation has been broken around insurance and license matters.

In the last 12 months we Sussex Police has taken action in a number of cases. An investigation is currently with the Crown Prosecution Service of dangerous driving whilst on an E-Scooter, where the rider has collided with an elderly female causing injuries. There are also two other cases in progress where persons have been reported for summons for no insurance offences, and driving other than in accordance with a driving license.

In November 2021, and in response to concern from communities, we have run a special operation to tackle E-Scooter use and offences. This was using Roads Policing teams and Neighbourhood teams to complete dedicated patrols targeting users and enforcing legislation. This resulted in a number of offences being dealt with:

*7 traffic offence reports for no insurance
2 summons being issued for no insurance
1 Summons being issued for disqualified driving
1 Section 59 warning issues to a young person
15 E-Scooters seized.*

Moving forward it is our intention for the enforcement of law around the use of these vehicles to become part of the routine work Police undertake to keep our communities safe. To this end we are encouraging all departments, including the coaching unit (divisional units for newly recruited officers), Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Response Units, as well as the Roads Policing Team to focus on this area during their patrols and work.

We would also encourage local communities to engage with the local PCSO's and Neighbourhood Policing Teams to identify hotspots for the use of these vehicles to enable those officers to focus their patrols and attention to reduce the risk of injury to persons. Our first aim is always to keep people safe, and reduce injuries and casualties especially on the roads, we enforce the law where circumstances are appropriate but by working together can continue to educate users of these vehicles to abide by the law. We will also keep under review any changes in the law around their use, and seek to communicate this as widely as possible at the time."

I am hoping this is useful, if you need anything further please let either myself or ACC Jones know.

Ed Faulkner - Staff Officer to ACC Tanya Jones.

(d) NALC Policy Consultation Briefing - OFCOM Postal Regulation Consultation

The Clerk reported said that she had previously circulated an email received from Anna Beams, together with the NALC Briefing Note, to give Members the opportunity to view the full Consultation Document if they so wished.

She said that the Office of Communications (OFCOM) had recently launched a Consultation into its review of Postal Service Regulation from 2022-2027 with the aim of supporting the financial sustainability and efficiency of the universal postal service, and promoting competition and improving protection for consumers. She said NALC would be responding to the Consultation as detailed in the Briefing Note and was seeking the views of County Associations and Member Councils to help inform its own submission to OFCOM, by 17 February 2022.

Following a brief discussion, the Council RESOLVED that Members should forward any comments that they might like to make in respect of the response proposed by NALC, to the Clerk by 11 February 2022, to enable her to submit a representation to NALC, if appropriate.

(e) **Sussex Police - Chief Constable 'Big Data' Presentation**

The Clerk reminded Members that she had previously circulated an email received from Anna Beams, advising that Chief Constable Jo Shiner would be giving a Zoom Presentation to Member Councils across West and East Sussex on the use of 'big data' on 25 February 2022 at 1.30 pm and Councils were invited to send one representative.

Following a brief discussion, the Council RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Mrs Cooper, should represent the Council at the above-mentioned Event and be tasked with reporting back to the Council in this regard in due course.

(Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor Street had declared a personal interest in his capacity as a Teacher at The Angmering School)

22/22 THE ANGMERING SCHOOL - SMALLHOLDING PROJECT

The Clerk reported that the following Reports received from Toni Harris, Smallholdings Manager, had been previously circulated to all Members:-

Report 1

Over the last half term we have been able to offer sessions to some of our local feeder primary schools. Georgian Gardens took us up on this offer and by the end of the autumn term (17th December) we will have engaged with 45 pupils in years 1-6. The pupils attending have been a mixture of higher profile behaviour, some experiencing anxiety, some disadvantaged and also those with SEND. These sessions take place on a Tuesday for 2 hours at a time, and encourage the pupils to participate in a variety of activities whilst working alongside each other. Activities have been a mix of physical - such as using hand tools, weeding, preparing raised beds and spring bulb planting; and creative - making some items for the smallholding such as bug hotels and planters.

The pupils have been engaged and enjoyed their time outside experiencing nature, whilst learning in a different environment.

After Christmas East Preston Junior School and St Wilfred's will be attending each Tuesday.

On a Thursday I offer small group intervention sessions for year groups 7-10 (students are selected by the school) and have engaged with 19 vulnerable TAS students so far this half term. The students have again learnt how to use hand tools and larger equipment and have assisted with weeding, planting and maintaining the schools memorial garden; as well as starting to help clear the site in preparation for the erection of the polytunnel and creating a sensory garden area. These groups will run for a half term at a time, therefore after Christmas a new set of students will have the opportunity to attend. These sessions encourage the students to use their interpersonal skills whilst aiming to meet their social and emotional needs.

The students who attend on a Thursday complete an AYP mentoring evaluation form during their first session and another one during their last session. This looks at their physical health, their emotional wellbeing and community relationships amongst other headings. The aim is to see an improvement in their score after the intervention.

On a Friday I work with 5 students from years 10 and 11 who will have access to an alternative curriculum qualification. These students have been working alongside me since the end of September and during that time they have: built decking, erected a yardmaster shed, cleared the area earmarked for the sensory garden and began clearing the larger area where the polytunnel and hopefully a solar dome will be erected. These students work alongside each other every week

improving their 'soft' skills such as leadership, teamwork, communication skills, the opportunity to use problem solving skills and be flexible as the need arises.

Once the area is up and running we would like all users to be able to grow their own produce and take some ownership of the space, whilst enjoying being outside in nature. The money we have received from a variety of funding streams has been used to purchase the shed, the wood for the decking, the polytunnel as well as gardening equipment.

Report 2

The Angmering School identified a need for further in house alternative provision and therapeutic input for the young people of the school and the wider community. This has been brought into focus as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic which has impacted on individuals' social, emotional and mental well-being.

The smallholding project has become an integral part of TAS' therapeutic and curriculum offer, including offering an alternative curriculum pathway to those in KS4. This has been demonstrated this half term where 19 vulnerable TAS students have engaged in small group intervention work. Five young people in KS4 will aim to achieve a level one in practical horticultural skills by the end of the academic year.

One year 10 student said 'This small holding has helped me learn what some of the peases (pieces) of gardening tools are and how to use them and also the small holding helped me clear my head and relax'.

A year 11 said 'At the smallholding we have learnt how to look after plants, do risk assessments so we can use tools and rotovate, we have also done stuff like build sheds and teamwork. I'm liking the sessions and working with people and learning new skills. I'm benefiting from the sessions learning teamwork and new skills like planning what we want to do for the session'.

The aim is to teach sustainability and practical skills for life where the users will be able to grow their own produce, whilst taking ownership of the space. It is hoped to be a sustainable provision for future generations of young people across the wider community.

The school has recently signed up for the Eco Schools Green Flag accreditation and during step 2 of the process - the environmental review; chose the three topics to focus on of school grounds, biodiversity and waste. The aim is to work closely with the Eco schools group committee which is made up of students in years 7-13. It puts young people in control of environmental action in our school, the local community and beyond. Students can make a difference now whilst learning the skills needed to positively impact the planet.

Sessions have been offered to the local feeder primary schools and will also be open to members of the wider community, with the aim of opening the provision outside of school hours and during school holidays. This Autumn term saw 45 pupils engage in the project from Georgian Gardens in years 1-6 participating in a variety of activities such as using hand tools, weeding, planting spring bulbs: as well as some creative activities. The pupils were engaged and enjoyed their time outside experiencing nature whilst learning in a different environment. Covid unfortunately cut short our final session and I understand from speaking to the head teacher at Georgian Gardens that the pupils were disappointed not to be able to attend. Feedback from the school was positive and the pupils looked forward to their visits.

Next Steps

In the next six months we will be erecting the solar dome - kindly donated by Herons Dale School in Shoreham. This can be used as an additional learning space to our existing cabin. We will also

erect the polytunnel so we can begin to plant seeds inside during the winter and spring months so they will be ready to be planted in our raised beds in the allotment area during spring and summer. The completion of the sensory area sites will build us some raised beds so we can plant flowers, herbs, shrubs and trees to enhance the experience of the young people and to enable them to take notice of their surroundings and engage with their senses. We already have some herbs growing for taste and smell, as well as some grasses for touch and sound. We also have some established soft fruit trees again for taste. The students who participate on a Friday researched the plants for this area.

In the long term the intention is to develop the area to include some small animals, therefore building on its current offer.

The Angmering School and Arun Youth Projects are grateful for the money donated last year which enabled us to get started on the project and we are looking forward to being partnered with you again this year.

Councillor Street advised the Council that the Project was proving to be a great success, and was going from strength to strength. He said that it was particularly heartening to learn that it was enabling a number of pupils to work towards achieving qualifications in Practical Horticultural Skills.

The Council was pleased to NOTE all of the above information.

23/22 CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND - OUR SUSSEX COUNTRYSIDE AND GREEN SPACES MATTER

The Council NOTED a letter received from the Chair, Professor Dan Osborn, in this regard.

24/22 DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS CIRCULATED

The Council NOTED the following Documents and Publications previously circulated for Members' information:-

- (a) Action in rural Sussex - November and December Newsletters
- (b) Action in rural Sussex - AirS Matters Newsletter
- (c) CAGNE - 'Thank You' - December 2021
- (d) CAGNE - January Newsletter
- (e) Campaign to Protect Rural England - Campaigns Update - December 2021 & January 2022
- (f) Campaign to Protect Rural England - Letter from Prof Dan Osborn, Chair CPRE Sussex
- (g) Campaign to Protect Rural England - A look at what you've helped us achieve in 2021
- (h) Campaign to Protect Rural England - Tell the government: No to the Cumbria Coal Mine
- (i) Carers Support West Sussex - Latest News from Carers Support West Sussex
- (j) ERTA Voluntary Transport - Newsletter No. 41 - January-February 2022
- (k) East Preston Parish Council News - 1 December 2021, 8 December 2021, 15 December 2021, 22 December 2021, 31 December 2021, 5 January 2022 and 13 January 2022
- (l) Home-Start, Arun, Worthing & Adur - The Big Five, Now Open!
- (m) National Association of Local Councils - Chief Executive's Bulletin - 26 November 2021, 17 December 2021, 14 January 2022 and 21 January 2022
- (n) National Association of Local Councils - NALC Newsletter - 24 November 2021, 12 January 2022 and 19 January 2022
- (o) National Association of Local Councils - New Year Open Letter - 20 January 2022
- (p) Office for National Statistics - Newsletter for Local Authority Partners - Issue 37 - 17 January 2022
- (q) Proud to Care West Sussex - 18 January 2022
- (r) Royal Horticultural Association - Blooming Brilliant News: Issues 20 and 21

