



Horndean Parish Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

A MEETING OF THE GROUNDS COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 25 MARCH 2024 AT 7.00pm in Jubilee Hall.

Members of the Committee Cllr J Lay, Cllr S Freeman (Chairman), Cllr R Sowden, Cllr D Prosser, Cllr A Redding (Vice Chairman), Cllr J Hodgson, Cllr R Smith.

are summoned to attend.

19 March 2024

Carla Baverstock-Jones
Chief Officer

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. **Declaration of interest: Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State under the Localism Act 2011. You must withdraw from the room or chamber when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.**
3. **To open the meeting to members of the public to enable them to address questions to Parish Councillors. *The period of time which is designated for public participation shall not exceed 20 minutes. Each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than 3 minutes. A question asked by a member of public during public participation session at a meeting shall not require a response or debate.***
4. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on Monday 22 January 2024.
5. To receive an update in respect of the completed projects/significant works undertaken by the Countryside Team.
6. To receive a report and consider the quotations in respect of the replacement notice board at Parsonage Field.
7. To review the status of the notice board at Dell Piece.
8. To review the quotations received in respect of the surfacing at Downs Park and Deep Dell play areas.
9. To receive and consider a complaint in respect of the grazing of cows on Hazleton Common.
10. To receive a report and consider a request for the reduction of trees at Teal close.
11. To receive a report and consider the way forward in respect of parking on a grass verge at Wagtail Road.
12. To receive a report and consider the placement of bee hives on land within the ownership of the Parish Council.
13. **To resolve to exclude the public and the press, in the view that publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business or arising out of the business about to be transacted. (Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960).**
14. To receive and approve the Confidential Minutes of the Grounds Meeting held on Monday 22 January 2024.
15. To receive an update pertaining to the grass cutting contract and consider the way forward.



Horndean Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GROUNDS MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL ON 22nd JANUARY 2024 AT 7PM

PRESENT : Cllr J Lay, Cllr S Freeman (Chairman), Cllr R Sowden, Cllr D Prosser

IN ATTENDANCE : Carla Baverstock-Jones (Chief Officer), Matt Madill (Grounds Manager), Susan Blake (Minute Taker)

Meeting opened 7pm

G24/23/24 To receive apologies for absence : Cllr A Redding

G25/23/24 To receive any Declaration of Interest

No declaration of interest was received

G26/23/24 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on Monday 27 November 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Grounds committee held on 27th November 2023 be signed as a true record of the meeting

Cllr S Freeman signed

G27/23/24 To receive an update in respect of the completed projects/significant works undertaken by the Countryside Team.

Verbal update from Grounds Manager

Sleeper bed replaced in the Village Square

Repaired rails at Catherington pond unfortunately more faults have been found.

Coppicing with the volunteers.

The Grounds Manager stated that his team have some projects outstanding due to staff sickness

G28/23/24 To receive a report and consider the way forward in respect of the Parish Council Notice Boards

A report was circulated and a discussion took place and it was agreed:

Perceived higher footfall noticeboards to be kept

Jubilee Hall

Napier Hall

Clanfield Co-op

Spar

Lovedean Hall
Precinct

Remove noticeboard by Catherington Infant School
Replace Parsonage Field noticeboard
Review Dell piece noticeboard at next Grounds meeting (25th March 2024)
Remainder of noticeboards kept as information boards – site specific
Conditions of noticeboards to be monitored.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council:

- Continue to keep and maintain those with presumed high footfall
- Keep site specific notice boards
- Monitor condition of remaining notice boards
- Remove those in poor condition and replace if high footfall

Cllr J Lay Proposed
Cllr D Prosser Seconded

G29/23/24 To receive and consider the quotations in respect of the repairs to the surfacing at Downs Park and Deep Dell play areas.

3 Quotes were circulated.

The wet pour quotations were considered.

The Committee asked for Quotation 2 to be disaggregated so they can see the breakdown in cost for each separate play equipment surface area.

DEFER to next Grounds Committee Meeting – 25th March 2024

G30/23/24 To resolve to exclude the public and the press, in the view that publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business or arising out of the business about to be transacted. (Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960).

No Public or Press

Signed

Date

HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 6

25 March 2024

SUBJECT OF REPORT: Notice Board at Parsonage Field

BACKGROUND

At the meeting of the Grounds Committee on the 22 January 2024, Members considered the future use of the notice boards within the parish.

It was agreed to recommend to Council, that the notice boards should continue to be used, and therefore maintained accordingly.

The notice board in place at Parsonage Field due to its poor condition, was identified as needing to be removed and replaced.

The following Quotations have been obtained:

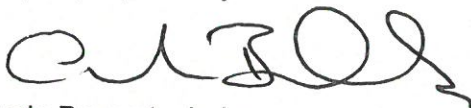
Quote 1 - £1,244.68 + VAT

Quote 2 - £1,086.54 + VAT

Quote 3 - £1,219.18 + VAT

The addition of white lettering identifying Horndean Parish Council, will give rise to an approximate cost of £350, which includes the header board.

Report prepared by



Carla Baverstock-Jones
Chief Officer



Paper for Discussion at Horndean Parish Council Grounds Committee: Notice Boards

Introduction

This paper pertains to the physical position of HPC Notice Boards and does not address any conversations regarding content that has been agreed previously within the HPC Engagement Strategy.

A decision was taken previously by Council that they would no longer use the Parish Council Notice Boards. However, an integral part of the HPC Engagement Strategy is to communicate information to all parts of our community. As part of this, it has been agreed that we utilise all existing Notice Boards initially and review whether to increase or decrease this each year, based on perceived usage and condition of the Notice Boards themselves.

Notice Boards have been allocated to individual Councillors to be responsible for:

- Ensuring content is contemporary, as per the HPC Engagement Strategy
- Monitoring condition of the Notice Board and referring issues to the Grounds Committee for consideration.

Currently, the location of the HPC Notice Boards and the responsible members who have volunteered to “adopt” specific Notice Boards are shown below.

Horndean Parish Plan – Engagement Strategy Appendix 1

Appendix 1.1 - Notice Board Locations and Condition									
Number	HPC Notice Board Location	Councillor/Owner*	Date Updated	Condition of Content	Board Condition and Appearance	Issue reported	Date of Report	Issue Rectified	
1	Clanfield Co-op	Cllr Attlee							
2	Catherington Infant School	Cllr Smith							
3	The Precinct - Horndean	Cllr Freeman			This Board can be removed to replace the Parsonage Field board (See below)				
4	Napier Hall	Cllr Attlee							
5	Lovedean Village Hall	Cllr Redding							
6	Kings Mede Spar	Cllr Jenkins							
7	Deep Dell Hazleton	Cllr Freeman							
8	Parsonage Field	Cllr Smith							
9	Catherington Lth	Cllr Redding			Wet and partially obscured				
10	Yoel's Copse**	Cllr Jenkins							
11	Hazleton Common	Cllr Freeman							
12	Deil Place West Entrance	Board Removed - Un-serviceable							Should we replace the spilted Board?
Notes	* Clanfield Co-op is a shared asset with Clanfield PC ** Yoel's Copse is not enclosed - All material must be weatherproof								

Objective

The purpose of this paper is to recommend to Council, one of two possible decisions

- Should Council maintain, and possibly improve, our range of Notice Boards and if so, what will be the strategy going forward
- Should Council discontinue the use of Notice Boards

Discussion Points:

It has become clear that some of the current notice boards are in poor condition and will need work to bring them up to a standard that reflects those of the Parish Council, as such the Grounds Committee should formulate a recommendation to Council on the following areas.



1. Should the boards continue to be an integral part of the Engagement Strategy of the council going forwards?
 - a. If so:
 - i. Should we identify all boards that now fall below standard?
 - ii. What remedial action should we recommend (repair/replace)?
 - iii. Who would carry out remedial works (Grounds Team/ Contractors)?
 - iv. Are there better physical positions where boards should be sighted?
 - v. Are there sites, that would benefit from a Notice Board that are currently not serviced by one?
 - b. If Not:
 - i. Should we continue to use any of the boards?
 - ii. Should we continue to maintain those boards that are up to standard?
 - iii. Should we take steps to remove all boards, or those that's condition reflect poorly on the Council

Footnote

Current costs to fully replace a Noticeboard is approximately £800

Recommendations

The Grounds Committee have considered the current situation regarding the condition of the Notice Boards owned and maintained by the Parish Council and wish to make the following recommendation for consideration by Council.....

Dear Council Members and Mr Madill

Reference your statement on the 6th Dec that the cows were shortly to be removed because "their job is nearly done". I didn't realise their time away would be so short. They are back in the south section of the Common. A mere matter of a few weeks and we are back to an unusable public space.

As I already know Mr Madill's position on this matter I would appreciate the views of the elected councillors regarding the following points...

1 - Does putting cows onto the common cost the council i.e. we pay the farmer or does he pay the council grazing fees?

2 - Does the Council believe it is fulfilling it's responsibility to the disabled community by denying easy access to the common. Also, do councillors appreciate it is not very pleasant trying to push a wheelchair through cattle muck? (also it is impossible to stop pre-school children from stepping in the stuff)

3 - New pathways were laid recently, well done. Are the Council happy that large cattle are already causing damage to this and existing pathways?

4 - The QE country park has stopped cattle grazing on the top of Butser and are now using 'other means' to manage the area so it is more amenable to the public. Perhaps someone could discuss this with their rangers?

On Wed, 6 Dec 2023 at 13:06, Matthew Madill <Matthew.madill@horndeanpc-hants.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Mr

I am sorry that you don't like the cows being on Hazleton Common Nature Reserve, but I do have to quote the biodiversity bible to you as cattle are an essential tool in conservation management of the nature reserves around Horndean. We have used cattle grazing as a way of managing our vegetation for many years and will continue to do so.

The way cows graze creates a mosaic effect of vegetation with some larger and small swards of grass. This is essential to wildlife as it allows different plants and animals to thrive. Think of it as lots of micro-habitats across a large area. I can only imagine over the course of a year, this is one of the main reasons you enjoy visiting the site. Hazleton Common is roughly 16ha in size and is being managed as a Nature Reserve. The site has a wide variety of reptiles, amphibians, birds, butterflies and other insects thriving on the site. Man-made machinery could not come close to creating the conservation benefit cows do.

That being said, I will hopefully end this email on a more positive note for you. The grazing of Hazleton is coming to an end as the cattle have almost served their purpose. I imagine the cows will be removed within the next couple of weeks.

Thanks

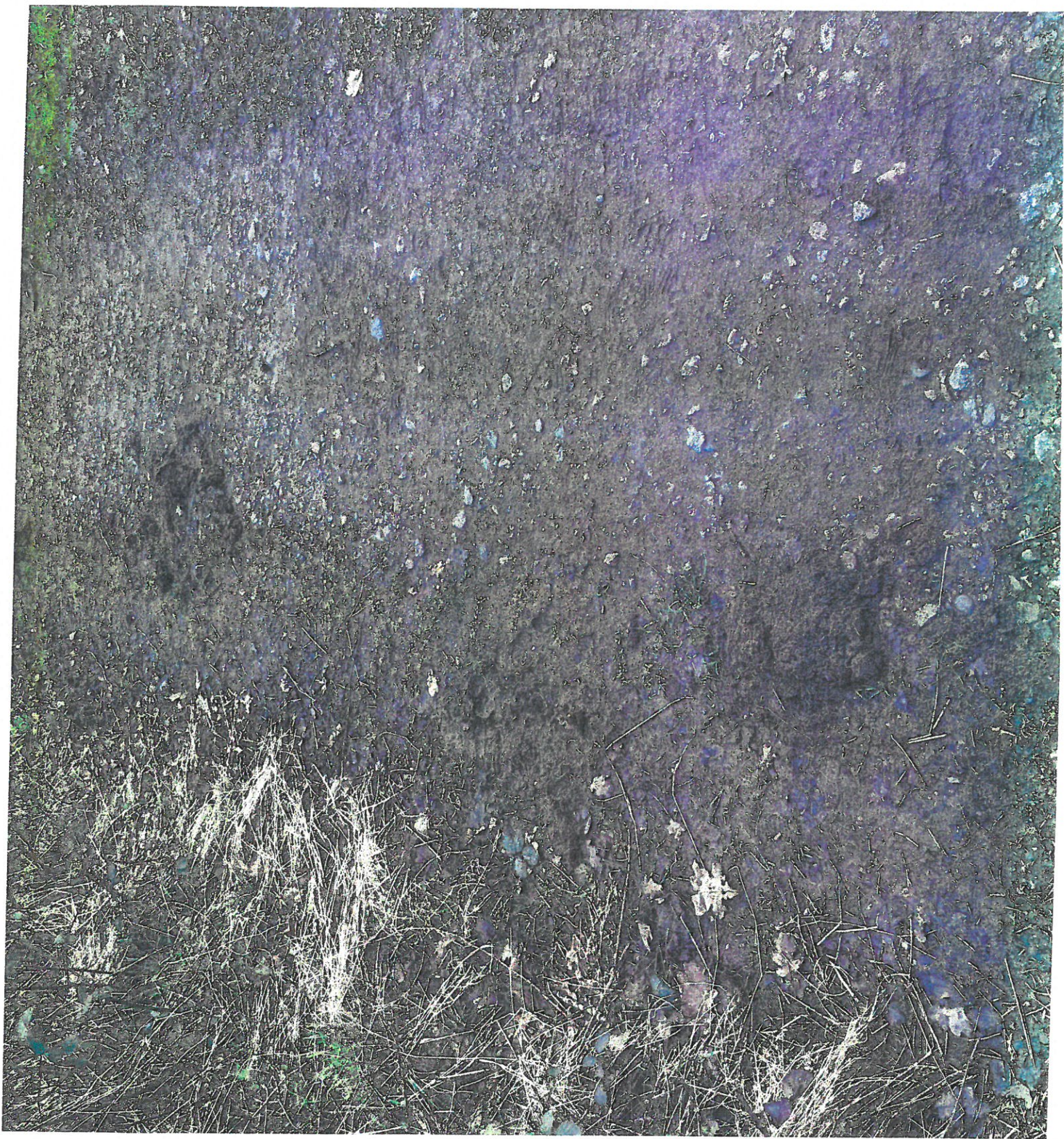
Matt

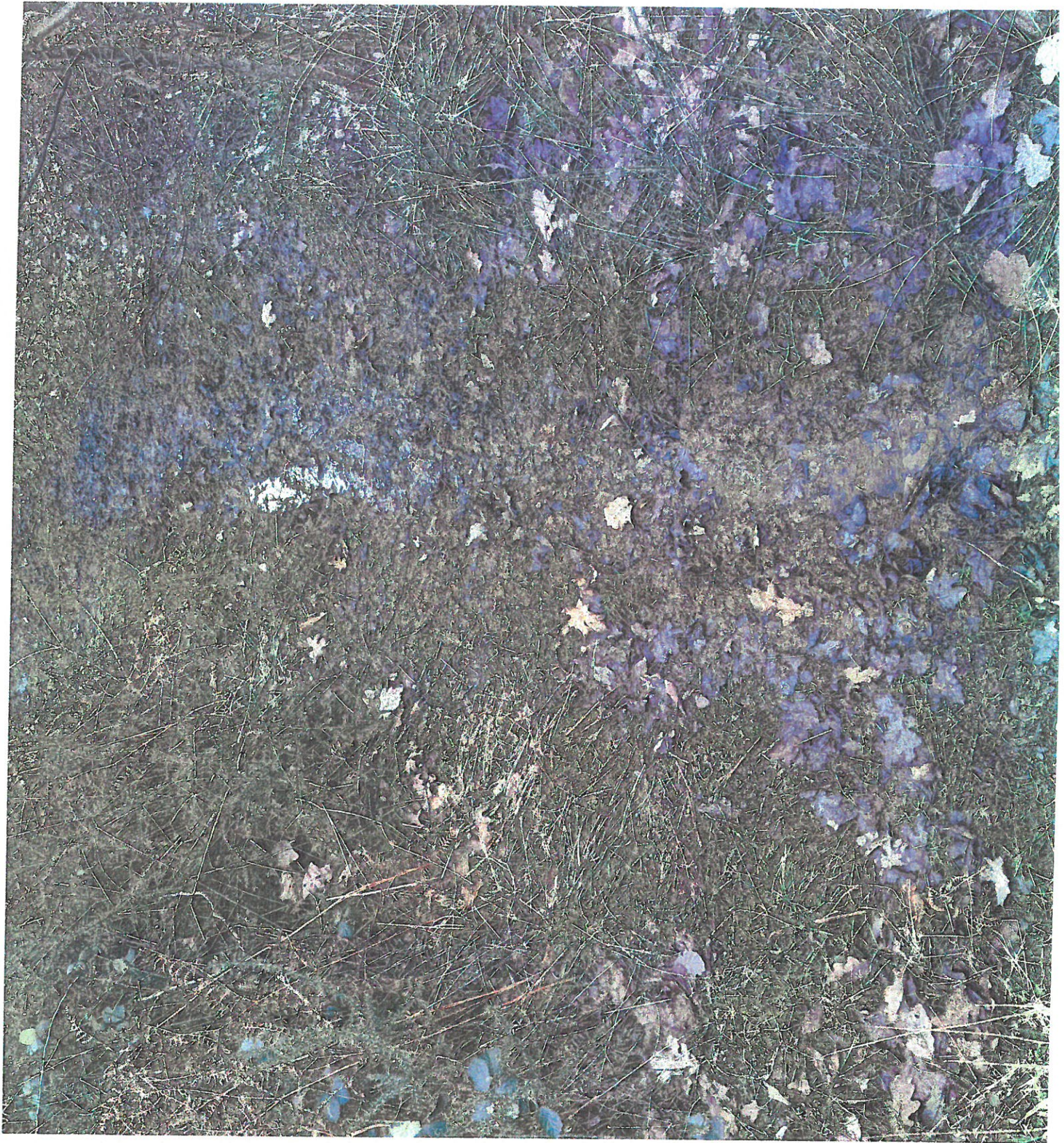
Good morning

In case you have not visited the common recently I would like to warn you that it is now a churned up, cow dung invested quagmire. It can no longer be safely used by families with young children and people with mobility issues. Why?..... because every year you allow a farmer to graze cows on the common. The combination of wet weather and one ton pooing cattle is a recipe for significant damage to paths and makes a walk on the common a very distasteful exercise.

Please do not quote the biodiversity argument. Surely there are other ways to maintain the common without making it unusable to the public for months. Or is it that the farmer pays to turn it into a cow field and you don't want to loose the money?

Come on council, stop this practice of making a valuable public space unusable to the people you serve.







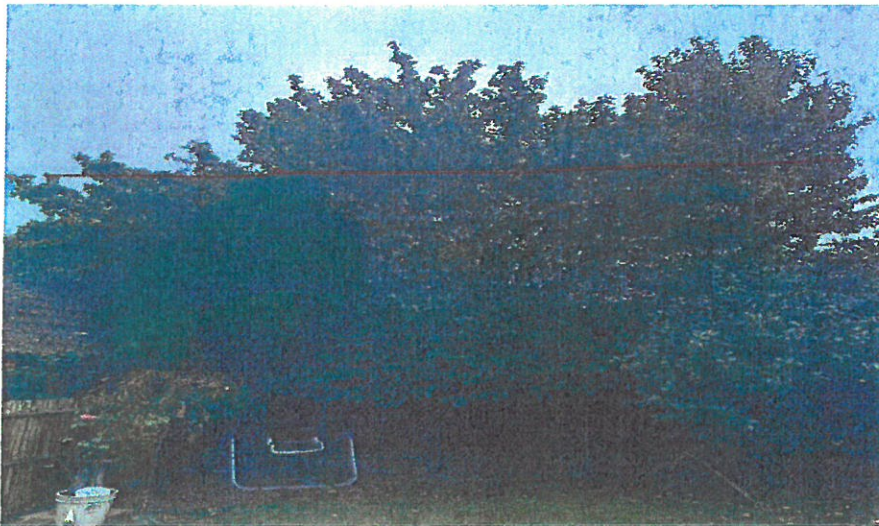
HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 10

SUBJECT TITLE: Trees at Teal Close

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

A local resident has requested that around 5 - 10ft of height to be removed from some trees found on HPC land that border the bottom of her garden (please see attached photo from her garden).



I think council need to consider the impact reducing trees will have on the aesthetics of the public green space (where stone chat meet Warbler Close) against the residents lack of sunlight due to the trees blocking the sun which in turn affects her enjoyment of the garden.

(See attached Photo from the roadside)



REPORT PREPARED BY:

Matthew Madill

Report

HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

11

SUBJECT TITLE: Parking on Wagtail Road

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

We received an email from a member of public at Wagtail Rd after a letter drop was done requesting residents to not park on HPC land.

The letter is below:

Dear Parish Council,

Just a quick note to say thank you for issuing letters reference the parking on the verges. That piece of grass is often used like a car park which as you say, is totally unacceptable.

It doesn't exactly make the street look very smart when there are cars all over the grass, also often blocking the turning space and restricting access to residents private parking for numbers 23 and 25.

(Just off the road and signposted)

It is this matter that I'd like to request or suggest bollards of some description to keep people from parking half on kerb/road at least for in front of the parking spots for 23 and 25?

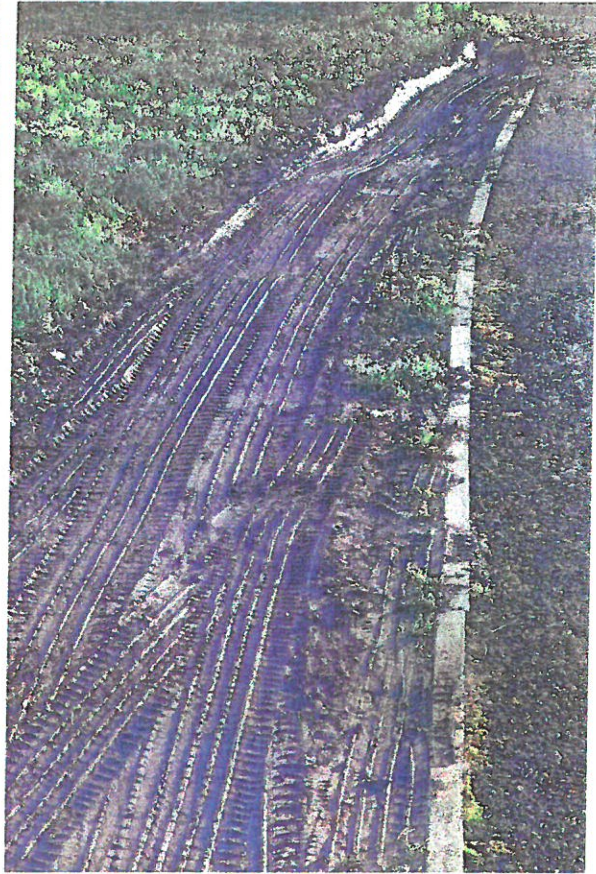
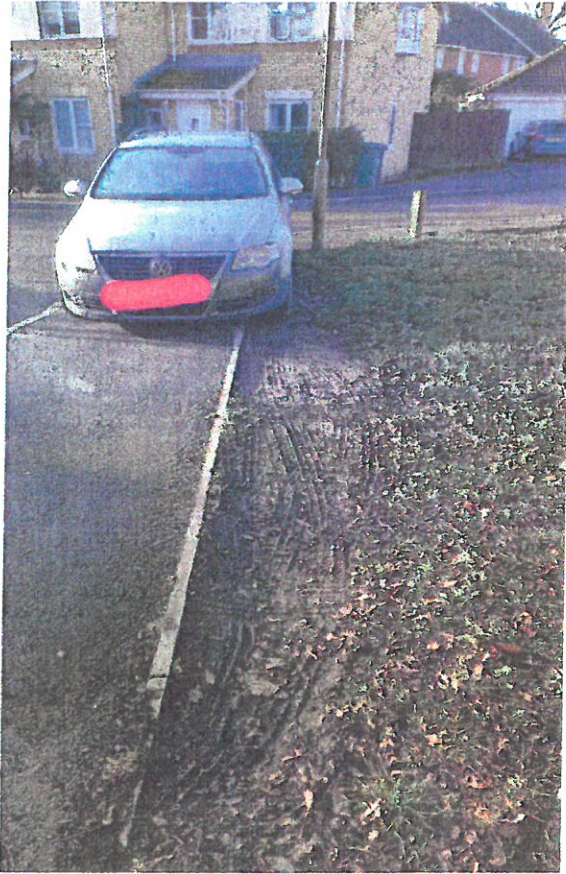
This would keep access open to the private parking spaces as the whole area is needed to swing into the spaces. It will also keep the grass clear on that side of the bend.

I ask as I live at number xx and it's incredibly frustrating when there are cars parked in the "turn space" for the road, or part on the road, part on the pavement or even simply using that grass as a car park.

Either way, it blocks access.

Hopefully something can be considered and put in place?

See Pictures of the issue below:



HPC could look to install bollards as we have carried this out on a number of sites but 1st we would need to do utilities check which I fear may show up as being in this area. There is a lamppost on the corner and in the past I am aware of a water pipe being hit when digging further up the road.

If there are utilities underground, are there any alternative ideas?

We would need to hire a Cat Scanner to check for utilities in the area before we install any bollards. This would cost approx. £65 for 4 hours use (from Beaver Tool Hire).

REPORT PREPARED BY:

Matthew Madill

HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 12

SUBJECT TITLE: Bee Hives on HPC Land

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

A resident has contacted HPC looking for a space to place two Bee Hives and wondered if we had a secure secluded spot that we might consider letting them use.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

Matthew Madill

