



Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve Management & Grazing Meeting

South Hill Barn & Seaford Head

Tuesday 17th September 09:30AM – 11:30AM

Attendees

Sharan Brydon, Assets & Projects Manager, Seaford Town Council

Paul Quanstrom, Senior Projects Manager, Seaford Town Council

STC Councillors:

Cllr James Meek, Seaford Town Council

Cllr Rod Buchanan, Seaford Town Council

Cllr Christina Bristow, Seaford Town Council

Cllr Christine Brett, Lewes District Council

Group representatives:

Terry Hallahan, Sussex Barn Owl Group, Chair

Mark Monk-Terry, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Alex Worsley, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Carole Mortimer, Natural England

Daniel Martin, Filming Liaison Officer

Tom Simpson, South Downs National Park

Paul Dixon, Seaford Natural History Society (replacing Colin Whiteman)

Stephen Hallam, The Friends of the South Downs

Rihanna Masters, Farmer

Simon Lambert, Head Greenkeeper at Seaford Head Golf Course

Minute Taker: Louise Dickson, Projects & Facilities Administrator

Apologies

A welcome to everyone in the meeting and apologies were received from Dan Fagan, (National Trust), David Pearce, (Catchment Sensitive Farming, Natural England), Laura Newland, (Natural England) and Colin Whiteman (Natural Historic Society).

MINUTES

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

1.1 Election of new Chair

All in favour of Terry Hallahan being the new chair.

STC to continue to arrange the meetings and take the minutes.

1.2 Assessment of Track

The track continues to worsen, as discussed in the last meeting (please refer to the March Minutes) with the bottom end of the track being a priority.

Suggestions include:

- Potential funding through CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy).
- *Cllr Christine Brett* suggested two pricing options one for short-term repair and one for long-term repair.
- Consent needed from the Environmental Agency for the repairs and to ask for potential funding.

Actions: Engage Environmental Agency.

Cllr Christina Bristow has contact email.

1.3 Compostable toilets

As per the last meeting of all being in favour of the compostable toilet locating to the courtyard of South Hill Barn. This has been delayed due to the company who move them being involved in summer festivals.

2. Updates

Hope Gap Steps

An update report was taken to the Community Services meeting on 30th May 2024, where it was PROPOSED to CONFIRM that the Town Council will leave Hope Gap Steps closed for the summer 2024 season whilst it gathers information ahead of considering short, medium and long-term assessment for a more sustainable solution.

The short-term stage to be, to commission an expert to identify what the issues are and what solutions are available for presenting to the other stakeholders to ascertain permission likelihood and timeframes, reporting back to the Town Council's Community Services Committee at 6, 9 and 12 months.

All in favour of a structural engineering report.

Cllr James Meek suggested STC update the public via Press Releases and social media going forwards on the proposed actions for Hope Gap Steps.

Daniel Martin mentioned the loss of two filming jobs due to the closure of the steps.

Update on 17th/18th hole at Seaford Head Golf Course

Simon Lambert (STC) and *Paul Quanstrom (STC)* updated the group on the proposed relocation of the 17th and 18th holes due to the ongoing movement of the cliff. The next step in the process is the pre application advise from Natural England.

Update on South Hill Barn

Cllr Rod Buchanan and *Paul Quanstrom (STC)* updated the group on the report. Traffic, parking and services (such as water) to be considered. Report to go to full council in September 2024.

Paul Dixon (SNHS members) raised concerns regarding the aqua-security of South Hill Barn were not confined to the location of toilets (whether or not they actually include a cesspit) but extended to any use of chemicals on the site - for, say cleaning or construction. The adjoining dew pond supports a protected colony of Great Crested Newts which could be damaged if, for example, any chemical residues in the courtyard seeped into the pond - not least during periods of heavy rain.

The second concerns *Simon Lambert's* presentation of fore coming activities of the golf course team. In addition to his comments on the re-alignment of the coast path and moving the 17th hole and 18th tees, he mentioned the creation of three new rides. He was not very clear on the location of these and SNH Soc members are worried that they could cut through areas where we monitor wildlife activity and where SWT should be advising on habitat management.

Sussex Wildlife Trust and Natural England

An audit of all signs has been undertaken by the Sussex Wildlife Trust. The grazing was not as successful as hoped with TB issues. Looking to graze fewer animals. The proposed site meeting for grazing did not take place in April. SWT, NE & STC

in discussions about further grazing on the site with South Hill Farm for placement and management of cattle on the site – these discussions are ongoing.

Carole Mortimer, NE mentioned the possibility of some further funding available from January to look at help to support.

3. Actions

Inform the Sussex Wildlife Trust of the wooden sign at the entrance to the reserve being illegible.

4. Next Meeting

Thursday 27th March 2025 at 10:00 AM. Meeting point South Hill Barn Car Park.