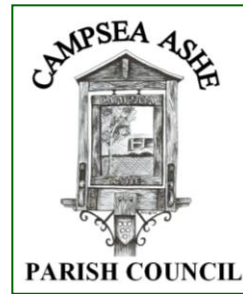


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In 2021 Campsea Ashe Parish Council voted to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (ceebill.uk) Among other objectives, this bill requires the UK to actively restore bio-diverse habitats and engage in activities to the benefit of our environment.

The PC wishes to engage more actively in preserving our environment and to progress actions that preserve and restore our environment. We also recognise the potential of communities coming together over engagement with nature, gardening and the positive social, educational and health benefits this provides.

Campsea Ashe Parish Council therefore established at the 18th January 2022 PC Meeting an Environment Committee (EC), dealing with Environmental issues affecting the parish.

I Environment Committee

The EC will engage with residents to determine specific issues and actions deemed to support positive environmental activities within the parish. It will only meet when specific issues/actions require a more timely and in-depth engagement, that is not possible to accomplish within regular scheduled (Full) PC meetings.

It or the full PC will create sub-committees where deemed appropriate and where volunteers are available, with the aim to allow resident groups to develop activities.

The committee will be run under LGA legislation, requiring agenda and advertised meetings accessible by the public. The EC will have a minimum of three PC Cllr's. with two being the quorate and the Chair or Vice Chair holding the casting vote.

II E Sub Committee – WAC; Terms of Reference

1 General Statement

The Sub-Committee 'WAC' has been established, to

- Advise PC on appropriate management of land owned or managed by the PC
- liaise, support and work with the local 'Wild About Campsea' volunteer group, where their projects relate to PC owned/managed land.
- make recommendations to either the EC or full Council and, with prior approval, take appropriate actions.
- Monitor any financial support given by or via the Parish Council to projects delivered by 'Wild About Campsea' and report outcomes to full Council.
- Operate under the financial regulation of Campsea Ashe Parish Council and will not incur expenditure outside of budgets agreed by the full Parish Council.
- In the event of emergency action being required, the decision on taking such Action is to be made by the chair or vice chair of the Parish Council and subsequently reported back to full Council.

..... tbc

2 Operational

The Sub-Committee will / is

- Membership consists no more than eight members, one or two PC Cllrs and up to six or seven Wild About Campsea members.
- Quoracy will be four committee members (at least one PC Cllr)
- Convene meetings as required and called by any member of the sub committee
Convenor will be responsible for compiling agenda and providing any pertinent supporting paper
Chair & secretary shall be appointed by those present at each meeting.
Decisions will be made by consensus. A written record shall be made of any decisions agreed and any actions to be undertaken. Copies are to be submitted to all members of the WAC Sub-Committee and to the clerk of the Parish Council.
- Empowered to invite specialist professional Officers or Advisors to attend meetings to provide guidance as to matters under discussion but members of the public shall not normally be invited.

3 Areas of activity of the Environment Sub-Committee 2022 / 23

Campsea Ashe Parish Council is currently responsible for the management of two areas of land:

- a portion of impenetrable scrubland off Chantry Close on the edge of the village envelope, believed to have been bequeathed to the community and for which the PC is in the process of pursuing Adverse Possession. The final purpose/use of the land, once in possession of the PC, will be subject to vote by the Full Council and after consultations with all residents.
- part of the Village Recreation ground behind the Village Hall in the centre of the village. Campsea Ashe Parish Council has asked Wild About Campsea to become partners on the PC's Environment Sub-Committee to help devise management plans for these two areas and to provide the voluntary labour required to manage the land in accordance with their shared objectives.

A Chantry Close

Initial plans to use the Chantry Close site as a Community Garden have been shelved after the discovery that Nightingales regularly nest in the scrub and rare species such as the Turtle Dove have been spotted.

The current plan is to use satellite and drone technology to identify a suitable transect line which will be cut during the winter in order to undertake a breeding bird survey in the spring. Thereafter it is likely that the area will be managed as a Nature Reserve with a low intervention management plan that will limit human access in order to maintain minimum disturbance.

B Village Playing Field / Recreation Ground

Plans for a Community Garden have transferred to the village Playing Field. While preserving space for sport and play, the intention is to devote a portion of the field to an Edible Forest and Community Garden structured according to Permaculture principles and using organic methods. The objectives are:

- to provide a space in which children, young people and adults (including vulnerable adults) can learn about the natural world and how sustainable food production can work with nature;
- to provide a space where residents can grow food using organic methods. An estimated one third of village dwellings have small gardens and there are no allotments in the village;
- to provide a venue for regular outdoor social interaction of all age groups, thus supporting community cohesion, skill-sharing and individual health and well-being.

The Community Garden will be a shared enterprise in which villagers are invited to work together and share the produce together. If there is a demand, a proportion of the area could be devoted to plots that can be rented by individuals. Villagers can have access to the shared gardens at any time but on two Saturday afternoons a month throughout the year organised activities will take place so that participants can learn from and share time together.

The start-up funds required will help with the provision of:

- a secure meeting and storage space from which to conduct educational and social activities. Ideas under exploration include the conversion of an existing metal shipping container to a community garden cabin or the purchase of a suitable wooden cabin;
- construction materials for a cabin base, raised beds and paths;
- fruit and nut trees, soft fruit canes and perennial food plants with which to start the edible forest.

It is hoped that some of these costs will be offset through donations of materials, volunteer expertise and labour, through company sponsorship and through gifts of seeds and plants.

Chair, Campsea Ashe PC
9th February 2022