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APPENDIX 2

ENVIRONMENT AND FOOTPATHS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2011

Footpaths: Complaints from dog walkers regarding stiles on Footpath 5c (junction 8b) 5b and 5a. These paths lead into East Chilmington from the PF. The tenance farmer has been grazing sheep and has installed some unsuitable measures to prevent the animals straying onto the railway line and neighbouring fields. Some of these make it difficult for dog owners to walk their dogs along this path. A letter should be sent to the ROW and Monday Group to ask them to consult with the farmer to get agreement to install more suitable stiles and gates, and am happy to meet any representatives to explain. I have explained to the people who have complained that they can contact either of these groups themselves and the more complaints received more notice may be taken.

Environment: I met the owner in East View Fields whose hedge was encroaching onto the pavement. He has agreed that he will trim the hedge and also see if he can make the grass verge wide by removing some of the grass that has grown over the path. A resident of EVF reported that a tree had fallen from the Bevernside and had caused some damage to his property. Chris Symes quoted 3150 to remove the tree and with the agreement of the Clerk, the work has been done. The first horse chestnut tree in the car park at the PF has a very large bracket fungus growing on it. It had been identified as a Dryads Saddle by a resident and Chris Symes will take core samples to see how damage the fungus has caused. If it is felt necessary, the tree will be felled. The hedge at the allotments is in need of cutting and some of it has died back and may need replacing. With the Council's agreement I would like to obtain quotes to have the work carried out.

Village Hall and Green: Request received that the path which runs from the VGreen to the twitten leading out onto Station Road is cleared of nettles. The area is due to be surveyed to ascertain what other works need to be carried out.

The owner of Tenterden, Station Road has started to cut the boundary hedge quite drastically; this work stopped at the request of the Council. When the VG contractor was cutting the grass in this area, I asked him to trim back the remaining hedge to make it more in line with what the owner of the property had started. He is quite happy with the outcome and I suggest that the cutting of this hedge is a permanent arrangement with the contractors, thus avoiding any future problems. I would like to request that the VG contractor works on the beds surrounding the VH as these are not as tidy as they should be.

Parish Noticeboard on the Green at Westgate: This has been scratched and some graffiti has been etched into the wood. I have asked Geoff Gamble to sort this out and he will use a suitable varnish and send in an account; all the notices were taken out and thrown on the ground. Someone has dumped a lot of cuttings on the path from the VG to the twitten. Could a piece be put in the Parish Magazine regarding fly tipping.