

Agenda Item 11 June Meeting – Friston Pond Renovation

Friston Pond requires major renovation work. Following a site meeting with an SDNP environment officer and ranger, and after receiving contractor recommendations, I requested quotations and job specifications from three contractors in line with financial regulations requiring three quotations to be *sought*.

Alan Stenning & Son

Phone approach 15th April 2026

Email quote request 16th April

Email from contractor received 17th April with further queries

Email 21st April responding to queries and offering site visit

Email chase 5th May

Phone chase 20th May

No response

PHB Group

Quote request on website 15th April 2026

Phone chase 1st May -no response

Further phone chase 8th May – given mobile number to try

2 further calls went to voicemail.

No response

Peter Birchall (“Pete the pond”)

By contrast Peter replied within days with a full and detailed *estimate* of £6400 (any excess to be notified before additional work commences) and an initial year maintenance budget of £2700. Both of these amounts are eligible for grant assistance.

Whilst we have no quotations to compare, I understand most contractors clear the pond by digger one third per annum. This is a far more invasive form of renovation than that suggested by Peter.

All present at the meeting (Jonathan Timberlake, Cllr Hill and I) were impressed by his knowledge and passion. A true eccentric but one who is dedicated to his craft. He was also clearly the preferred contractor at SDNP

Proposals:

1. Engage Peter Birchall as our contractor for renovation and maintenance.
2. Apply for funding through SDNP “Pounds for Ponds” scheme.

Phil Burgess

Clerk to East Dean and Friston