

## Ide Parish Council

### Weir Meadow Working Group

#### Report to Council meeting 16 Sept 2020

1. The group met on 7 September 2020 by Zoom.

#### 2. Planning applications:

2.1 **Change of Use.** TDC officers have written to say they have decided to recommend approval for the change of use application, given two specific (and expected) pre-commencement conditions, to which we agreed on 17 August 2020. The conditions are that we will before commencing any work provide:

- a surface water drainage management plan to cover before, during and after any works are carried out;
- a landscape and ecology management.

We await confirmation from TDC.

#### 2.2 **Car parking and Pavilion re-siting.**

The only issue to arise here was a request from the Biodiversity officer for a further bat survey of the existing cricket pavilion. This was done - again pro bono and with our great thanks – by Julian Perrett and submitted to TDC, also on 17 August. We await a decision from TDC.

3. All architects' and planning fees have been paid. We have a balance of £1602.47 in credit in the Recreation Ground account.

4. **Northern Fields.** We understand, but have yet to receive confirmation, that the Church Commissioners, through their agent Strutt & Parker, are planning to enter into a two year farm business tenancy for the Northern Fields from 29 Sept 2020 with the current tenant, to accommodate our projected timetable for buying the land.

5. **Option Agreement to Purchase.** David Howe has reached an advanced stage of negotiation on the option agreement for Pynes Orchard. In particular, in removing any conditions relating to mineral rights; and agreeing the basis for overage payments in the (vanishingly unlikely) event of the Council selling on or developing the site later. Much of this work is directly transferrable to the option agreement for Weir Meadow; and the Church Commissioners' rural asset manager, Ciara Williams, is acting very helpfully and responsively in this regard. We submitted a draft of the Orchard option agreement that we would be happy to sign to Farrers solicitors on 19 August 2020, and await their response. Once settled, we should be able to reach agreement for Weir Meadow relatively fast.

6. The group meets again on 9 November 2020.

END.