

## **Ide Parish Council**

### **Pynes Community Orchard Working Group**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 14 June 2021 at 6.30 pm outside at  
The Halt, 1 St Ida's Close, Ide**

**1. Present:**

Peter Cloke (chair), Mel Liversage (parish clerk), Trevor Gardner, Jessica Paine, Phil Willcock, David Howe, Mark Thomas, Julian Perrett and Nick Bradley.

**2. Apologies:** Richard Sharman.

**3. Minutes** of the meeting held remotely on 22 February 2021 were approved.

**4. Update:**

4.1 Nick and David explained that the final draft of the Option to Purchase Agreement has been signed by both parties. However, the Church Commissioners will not exchange the contracts until South West Water have installed the water meter and fully connected the water supply to the re-sited trough. This is taking longer than expected. The CCs assured us last week that they are pressing Strutt & Parker to expedite this work from SWW.

4.2 Peter reported that the young trees are becoming dry and thirsty; and will need watering through the summer.

**ACTION:** Nick to alert CCs to the need for a water supply now, given we are currently renting the orchard as a private orchard through Andy Bragg.

**5. Review of other Action points from last meeting.**

5.1 New Joint Projects Fund Raising SubGroup has formed and met three times, monthly on a Monday. It is planning a fund raising event locally every month. The subgroup's terms of reference have been approved by the parish council. Work has started on drafting an application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund.

5.2 The prospectus has been redrafted and is now in version 10.7, dated 6 June 2021; but does not yet have reference to Weir Meadow in it, as was agreed.

**ACTION:** Nick to add short paragraph explaining the Weir Meadow project.

5.3 The prospectus still needs an Ecology section adding.

**ACTION:** Julian will draft an ecology plan summary for the prospectus and send to Nick asap.

## 6. Fund Raising

6.1 David explained how the Localism Act has given broader powers to parish councils, which means that we will have no difficulty doing the things we hope to do to raise money. The orchard is a well being amenity, not expected to be funded from the ordinary precept budget. David outlined the pros and cons of appealing for funds as, on the one hand a parish council, and on the other, a charity. As a parish council, we are limited, as far as grant making bodies go, to the National Lottery and landfill businesses.

An application to the HLF has special issues. It has to be made in partnership with at least one other charity. And it has to be for a project, not purely land acquisition. This will roughly double the amount that we would have to apply for from c.£70k to £140k. Some members felt uneasy about inflating the originally intended cost and over complicating the vision of the project. In depth discussion.

**ACTION:** Peter will circulate members with the five key questions from the HLF application tonight; members will respond with their own answers by end of 17 June, and prepare the group's views for discussion at the Joint Projects Fund Raising Sub Group meeting on 21 June.

**ACTION:** Peter will invite a member of the school community to join this group to strengthen partnership with the school.

6.2 We were reminded that there remained four other avenues for raising funds, which we will fully explore:

- Personal donations
- Borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board, with repayment by a rise in precept through council tax
- Community Infrastructure levy
- Bio Diversity net gain or Offsetting

**7. Care of trees.** The new tress will need watering through the summer. This is an obvious opportunity to hold a volunteer watering session. We will get water into the trough one way or another. There is mowing and strimming to be done.

**ACTION:** Peter will arrange a watering group session.

**ACTION:** Pater will arrange for strimming round tress, mowing pathways and flattening BBQ area.

**8. Next meeting:** Monday 12 July 2021 6pm.

END

MINUTES APPROVED 12 JULY 2021