**Ide Parish Council**

**Weir Meadow Working Group**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 18 October 2021 at 7.30 pm**

**at Plane Trees, Ide**

**1. Present:** Richard Cottle (Chair), Mel Liversage (Parish Clerk), Mark Thomas, Phil Willcock, David Howe, Cheryl Haddy, Rich Cloke, Nick Bradley.

**2. Apologies:** Stuart Brooking, Trevor Gardner, Doug Bell, Pete Skinner.

**3. Draft minutes** of last meeting held 20 Sept 2021 were approved.

Action: Mel to post on website.

**4. Fund raising**

Nick updated the meeting on the total raised so far in the Appeal for Funds: £35,830 in donations and pledges. Mark and Cheryl reported on the pancake breakfast, exhibition and site tours on 9 October. Phil presented his schedule of funds raised which he is updating weekly.

Rich reported that the cricket fun day had raised £2,618, now paid in.

Cricket Club calendars produced by Clare Wills are coming out soon for sale.

Action - Mark do text piece with photos; and Cheryl do thermometers graphic for November 2021 Ide Times; Mel & Nick report on fund raising on both projects, and some FAQs including grant and possible loan for balance.

Post meeting update: actions complete.

5. David reported that Coastal Waste had been a possible grant funder, but are no longer making grants.

6. Richard C has arranged for the England Woodlands Creation Officer from the Forestry Commission to visit at 10am on 2 Nov 2021. His first impressions of the N Fields as a potential woodland are that he finds no constraints on the site.

Action: RC and NB to meet officer on 2 Nov.

Post meeting update from Richard C: Forestry Commission has now postponed this visit until further notice (? early 2022) while they clear the backlog of existing applications.

7. Selena Morgan is organising a Jumble Sale to raise funds on 20 Nov. All tables already sold.

8. Cheryl suggests and will set up a Craft Fair on ? 4 December.

Action: Cheryl

9. Suggestion to approach James Studholme of Police Dog Hogan to do a gig ? at Westown.

Rich Cloke will ask Richard Sharman to approach James S.

10. **Leat.**

Nick reported on his site meeting with Victoria Leeming of Strutt & Parker on 7 October to inspect the leat and weir. There has been erosion of the north bank at the corner where the leat turns northwards; and there are large stones in the bed that have fallen from the north wall of the leat; and the concrete bed of the stream has sunk in recent years. But the southern wall of the leat, forming part of the highway, is in good repair. We agreed there is no active concern or risk needing immediate action.

Action: when we own it we will reposition some of the stones into the northern leat wall.

11. **Dogs**

Fouling of the cricket and football groundswould be bound to happen if dogs are allowed free range. But residents will also want to walk their dogs in the Meadow. Agreed that we will need to find a way of managing this, identifying certain dog free zones, and having good signage and waste bins.

Noted that we will also own N Fields, Triangular Field and the Orchard, each of which will be more able to accommodate dogs without similar risk.

Action: NB will research what other playing fields do, and take advice. Report to next meeting.

12. **Query** by Jenny Tuckett passed on by Stuart Brooking: if the parish or district got into difficulties, could the district take over the Orchard or Meadow to sell on for development?

Short answer: No. Longer answer: parish council much less likely to sell up than the current owners, or other potential buyers.

Action: Nick will write to Jenny Tuckett.

13. Next meeting Mon 29 Nov 2021, 7.30pm at Plane Trees.

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Minutes approved 29 Nov 2021