

Ide Parish Council

Ide Community Orchard Working Group

Minutes of a meeting held on Zoom at 6pm on Monday 6 December 2021

1. Present: Peter Cloke (PC, chair), David Howe (DH), Mel Liversage (ML, Parish Clerk), Julian Perrett (JP), Richard Cottle (RC), Mark Thomas (MT), Phil Willcock (PW), Richard Sharman (RS), Nick Bradley (NB).

2. No apologies received

3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 1 November 2021 were approved.

Action: Mel will post on website

4. Planting and on site work.

4.1 PC updated the group on recent new planting in the orchard:

1 walnut tree from Peter Pattison's garden, 1 Victoria plum tree and 1 Golden Delicious apple tree near the entrance.

4.2 PC reported on the working party held on 5 December for strimming and mulching.

Further working party to be arranged in early February 2022.

ACTION: PC arrange working party Feb 2022.

5. Fund Raising. NB updated the group on the latest fund raising position. As of 6 December we have received £28,086 in donations and tree sponsorship.

6. Grants. DH and NB updated the group on grant applications.

6.1 We have a live application with Viridor for £33,000. Viridor's regional assessment officer Mr Nick Berry visited the site on 1 December, accompanied by PC, DH and NB. He was enthusiastic about the site and impressed with our fund raising. Our success will depend on how much money Viridor has in this funding round. We expect to hear very soon after January 7, 2022.

6.2 Following the successful entry of Ide into the RHS Village in Bloom competition in the summer, Paula Burton Perrett with NB, PC & DH's input, prepared and submitted on 5 December an application for a £5,000 RHS environmental biodiversity grant towards gates and equipment. We expect to hear the result of this in January 2022.

6.3 NB outlined the proposed timetable for consulting residents about proposals, during January and February, to borrow the balance needed to complete the purchases of the Orchard, and Weir Meadow & Northern Fields.

ACTION: NB to brief councillors on timetable and consultation paper after discussion w DH.

6.4 MT suggested we prepare a report in the form of a newsletter for the combined projects, to supplement the reports in Ide Times, to update residents of progress in fund raising and prospects for acquiring the sites.

ACTION: MT, PC & RC will meet in January with a view to preparing a newsletter for early spring circulation.

7. Request for variation to the Option Agreement for laying an electricity cable.

NB reported that the Parish Council had discussed this item on 17 November, and were keen for further information before deciding how to proceed. In particular, the Council was not prepared to accept the Commissioners' proposed site plan, which hatched in the entire eastern half of the orchard as the possible route for any future electricity cable. The Council wanted to know how much money the CCs expected to save by running the cable through the orchard instead of the along the road from the substation to Pynes Farm; and expected to see detailed design proposals from Western Power to aid its decision making. The attached letter has been sent to Strutt & Parker. They have, in response, suggested a meeting with the Commissioners, which NB, PC and DH are happy to attend. We await a suggested date for that meeting.

ACTION: NB liaise with S&P (Victoria Leeming) about a meeting.

8. Tree map and spreadsheet record.

JP has prepared an Excel spreadsheet, assigning each tree a number, and detailing its name and root stock. To go with it he has prepared an aerial photograph showing the position of each numbered tree using GPS.

NB had conducted a ground truth exercise in November and provided update information to JP, who will prepare a revised version of the map and record, to include the standing mature trees identified by letter and with name information from Charles Staniland; and make this available to PC and NB, who can provide it to donors who have sponsored trees.

Members thanked JP for this very useful tool.

ACTION: JP to update tree map and Excel record.

9. PW raised the issue of access for dogs to the Orchard, citing Lustleigh community orchard where dogs are to be kept on leads. PC suggested we will need to agree terms of use at a future meeting.

10 . Date of next meeting:

Monday 10 January 2022 6pm

END - NCAB 10 12 21

Attached to these minutes - letter to Strutt & Parker following IPC meeting 17 11 21.

Approved 10 Jan 2022