

Ide Parish Council

Weir Meadow Working Group and Ide Joint Projects Fund Raising Group

**Minutes of a combined meeting of the two working groups held remotely on Zoom
on Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 7.30 pm**

1. Present: Nick Bradley (Chair), Rich Cloke, Charlotte McGregor, David Howe, Cheryl Haddy and Phil Willcock.

2. Apologies: Trevor Gardner, Mark Thomas, Richard Cottle, Peter Cloke, Jess Paine, Mel Liversage and Stuart Brooking.

3. Draft minutes of WMWG meeting held 29 November 2021 were approved.

4. Draft minutes of IJPRG meeting held 8 November 2021 were approved.

Action: Mel to post on website.

5. Combined meetings of WMWG & JPRG

NB reported that the autumn fund raising appeal had nearly run its course, and that the PC was now moving into the phase of seeking support to apply for borrowing approval. The fund raising group will next be active when Phase IV arrives - developing Weir Meadow. Till then it seemed sensible to meet as a combined group: only Peter Cloke and Charlotte McGregor from the JPRG were not also on the WMWG. Those present agreed to go on meeting as a single group until further notice.

6. Fund raising

Nick updated the meeting on the total raised so far in the autumn Appeal for Funds.

Weir Meadow: £39,766 donated.

Victorian Orchard: £29,336 donated; plus £33,449 grant pledged by Viridor (£31,025 of which available for land purchase); plus £5,000 grant pledged for equipment by RHS.

7. Grants.

7.1 DH explained the terms and conditions of the Viridor grant; clawback and indemnity undertakings; and the requirement to pay a sum equivalent to 10% of it to Viridor as the Third Party Contributory Landfill tax payment. NB agreed that part of his gift can be used for this purpose, that he is willing for it to be used in this way, and that he will make the necessary payment.

7.2 We have to draw down the first tranche of the Viridor grant within six months from 14 January 2022, and spend it all by 14 January 2023.

DH will act for the Parish Council in receiving funds as our solicitor when it comes to exercising the Option.

7.3 NB undertook to approach three of the largest donors to Weir Meadow to seek their permission to use their gift for either project if the time limit on drawing down on the Viridor grant were to approach expiry (draw down date is 14 July 2022), and we were faced with losing it*.

It may be helpful to stagger the exercising of the Options so that we can have reclaim the £11,560 VAT on the Orchard, and once recovered, use it to go on to pay the VAT on Weir Meadow.

Action: NB seek permission from WM donors to use gifts for either project.

***Update post meeting:** three donors to the Weir Meadow fund, whose gifts total £19,500, have declared that their donations may be used for either project if necessary.

8. Fund raising events.

CH reported that the planned Burns Night party on 22 Jan, and the Valentines Party on 12 Feb, had been pulled due to Covid.

Richard Sharman has been liaising with James Studholme of Police Dog Hogan with a view to a fund raising concert at Westown Farm in June. NB to contact RS to find out what progress made.

Rich Cloke plans a cricket club summer fun day on Sat 27 August.

CH will mobilise her team to hold an event on 2 June and / or 3 June, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, day and night events.

Other suggestions:

Bag making class by Kate Venables, bags to be sold.

Dartmoor walk led by Richard Sharman

ACTION:

CH mobilise team for 2/3 June events

NB contact Richard Sharman about summer concert

9. Forestry Commission Officer's visit to N Fields

RC has reported no date made yet. To keep chasing.

ACTION: Richard Cottle continue in contact w Forestry Commission

10. Consultation on Borrowing

10.1 NB reported that consultation survey letters had been hand delivered to every address in the parish over the weekend 15-16 January. The shortfall in funding required is £161,000 across both projects. At current fixed interest rates for a 50 year loan from the PWLB, taking account of likely rises between now and when we would take a loan, this would need an increase in the parish precept of £5514 per year, and an increase in the average band D council tax of £1.89 per month.

10.2 Due to Covid, the planned open meetings on Sat 22 Jan will now be Zoom open Question & Answer sessions. The details appear on the consultation letters; have been advertised on Ide Facebook page, and on posters put up round the village.

10.3 The closing date for consultation replies is 18 February 2022.

10.4 An extraordinary Parish Council meeting has been called for 2 March 2022 to consider the consultation response and make a formal decision on applying for approval to borrow.

ACTION: ML & NB analyse survey results; and prepare report and application papers for 2 March EPC meeting

11. VAT.

DH and PW reported that they had made in depth enquiries from DALC VAT expert Stephen Parkinson, and concluded that we will be able to recover all VAT spent on the land and other costs relating to Weir Meadow provided we claim less than £7,500 per year, and abide by a set of prescribed sporting exemption rules. The sporting clubs using the facilities will need to have a written constitution in order to enter into a lease agreement with the Parish Council.

Action: Rich Cloke and Stuart Brooking to take advice on preparing club constitutions

12. Managing Northern Fields and Weir Meadow in first year.

12.1 We can expect we take possession of the meadow and fields this summer or early autumn if plans for borrowing go as hoped.

Cricket: RC explained that stone picking and re-seeding will be needed. Would be aiming for installing an artificial cricket wicket during winter 2022/23, depending on funding for groundworks and re-seeding. RC said Andrew Ash has access to equipment. There will be no need for drainage of the pitches.

12.2 There will be a rapid need for signage and dog waste bins as soon as we own the land.

12.3 NB will contact Pete Skinner about how best to go about letting the N Fields for the first year or two while we make plans for the next phase.

Action: NB contact Pete Skinner

13. Next combined meeting of WMWG and JPFRG: Monday 21 February 2022, 7.30pm on Zoom.

NCAB 30 Jan 2022 v2

Approved 21 Feb 2022