

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 Monday 17 October 2022 at 8 pm**

1. Present: Richard Cottle (Chair), Nick Bradley, Rich Cloke, David Howe, Charlotte McGregor, Philip Willcock, Andy Swain (footpaths IPC), Peter Skinner, Stuart Brooking.

2. Apologies: Cheryl Haddy, Rachel Herbert, Peter Cloke, Andrew Ash, and Mel Liversage.

3. Draft minutes of combined WMWG and JPFRG meeting held 12 September 2022 were approved.

3. Action: Mel to post on website.

4. Action points from last meeting:

4.1 Football Club:

SB reported that he has completed a pitch inspection with soil sample and reported to the Football Foundation's App. If FF accepts the inspection, we would potentially become eligible for funding in about 4 weeks time. Devon Football Association advise the FF. The FF delivers the funding. New guidance is due in November. Ide Rovers are playing in a league – one of the eligibility criteria.

4.1 Action: SB to initiate grant application process, in liaison with the group, when FF have approved the pitch inspection.

4.2 Hedge trimming Triangular Field

SB and RC yet to meet on site.

4.2 Action: Rich Cloke and SB to meet on site to assess for a quote by SB

4.3 National Lottery Community Fund.

Agreed now time to get on with applying for the category of grant up to £10,000.

DH offered to help prepare an application. At present likely items are planting, fencing, benches, interpretation board.

4.3 Action: R Cottle, DH & NB liaise over details to initiate an application

4.4 Forestry Commission.

4.4.1 PS reported on the **England Woodland Creation Offer**, which is the same scheme that R Cottle had been in contact with Forestry Commission about in February. We qualify by having over 1 hectare of land. The offer could yield up to £8.5k per hectare. Planting trees on Steep Scrub / Oak Bank (the steep scrubby 3 acre section of the western N Field that is not let) would be a good use of it.

4.4.1 Action: PS, R Cottle & NB to investigate and meet.

4.4.1 Action: R Cottle discuss w SB, who offers to make an environmental impact assessment of the land for the EWCO application.

4.4.1 Update post meeting: PS finds we need to register with the Rural Payments Agency: NB w PS's help has now registered IPC w the RPA, ready to make an application.

RC, PS, NB to meet on 2 Nov at 4pm.

4.4.2 Oak Bank. NB reported that Richard Parr has suggested moving the opening in the dividing hedge in N Fields down the hill to a point by the junction w WM, so that people can walk along the southern margin of the Western N Field to Oak Bank.

4.4.2 Action: WG members to gather a party to do this work.

4.4.3 We discussed PS's suggestion to flail the bramble thickets on Oak Bank in order to make it a potential area for dogs to run free. R Cottle reported noting many oak saplings which should be preserved there.

We agree to mark up the trees that are growing there now, so they can be avoided in any flailing.

4.4.3 Action: PS and R Cottle will meet on site to identify and mark sapling trees with fluorescent ribbon for protection.

4.4.3 Action: PS will obtain quote for flailing.

Post meeting update: PS received quote for flailing 3 acres of two days at £800 a day, for a man with the remote controlled flail machine. PS advises that bramble only takes up c50% of the ground, and that as a compromise the IPC might consider going for one day's bramble flailing.

4.4.3 Action: NB to add Oak Bank to IPC agenda for decision on 16 November.

4.4.4 CM also mentioned the Queen's Canopy as a possible funding source for trees.

4.5 Tenancy of Northern Fields.

NB & PS reported that Richard Parr took the tenancy; is tilling the land; has trimmed the hedges along College Lane; and has paid the first 6 month rent in advance.

4.6 Weir Meadow Entrance gate barrier

NB reported that Will Bosworth plans to install a heavy duty box section 4.2m wide galvanised steel barrier across the entrance to WM leaving a gap at each side for pedestrian access. Padlock to be fitted.

Post meeting update: installation took place on 27/27 October. Tenant Richard Parr informed (NB).

4.6 Action: NB to obtain padlock with a supply of keys for necessary keyholders.

4.7 Stile and pedestrian gate onto College Lane

Following confirmation from PS that the tenant is content and that our plans are permitted, IPC agreed with plan to install a stile at the upper entrance from College Lane to N Fields; and a pedestrian gate in the gap in the hedge at the lower entrance (NE corner of eastern N field).

4.7 Action: NB to seek quote from Will Bosworth for both items.

4.8 Signage

When gates installed, signage as agreed since last meeting and w IPC to be installed at WM entrance, WM & NF junction, and both NF entrances off College Lane.

4.8 Action: NB.

SB said he has a contact who makes interpretation board: part of planning permission is to provide such a board.

4.8 Action: SB to liaise with NB.

4.9 Footpaths

4.9.1 AS said he'd like to see the agreed paths made into formal public footpaths in due course. Agreed preferable to allow as permitted paths for now, while waiting to gauge how the two year tenancy goes first.

DH pointed out that the FBT document for N Fields states that dogs must be kept on a lead on the perimeter path.

4.9.2 CM asked if our public liability insurance covers walkers on these paths.

4.9.2 Action: NB to check with ML

4.10 Dog waste bins

4.10 Action: Mel waiting on Steve Ramage of TDC to visit to inspect College Lane and Station Rd for best siting position and determine charges.

5. Levelling, drainage, seeding

5.1 R Cloke reported that Andrew Ash has asked Kier to estimate costings for these works.

5.1 Action: A Ash report to next meeting

5.2 R Cloke has separately also spoken to Gavin Hands on these 3 items, who assures him it is possible, and will quote.

5.2 Action: R Cloke to meet Gavin Hands w NB on site.

6. Legal arrangement for lease / rent/ management of football and cricket pitches

R Cloke reported that a small subgroup (R Cloke, AA, DH & NB) had met on Oct 10 to start process of agreeing leasing and rental terms. Meeting again 22 Nov.

7. Management Plan

R Cottle proposed that it would be helpful to produce a management plan, with targets and dates to help us through the stages of the project.

7. Action: R Cottle with write a draft management plan for the group's comments.

8. Website

8. Action: R Cottle to draft a short entry for the website about WM & NF, as per minutes of last meeting.

9. Next combined meeting of the WMWG and JPFRG will be on Tuesday 15 November 2022 at 7.30 pm on Zoom.

Approved 15 Nov 2022