

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 15 November 2022 at 7:30pm.

- 1 **Present:** Richard Cottle (Chair) (RC), Nick Bradley, Andrew Ash, Richard Cloke (RXC), Rachel Herbert, David Howe, Peter Skinner, Mark Thomas and Phil Willcock.

Thank you to David Howe for taking and producing the draft Minutes.

- 2 **Apologies:** Stuart Brooking, Mel Liversage and Charlotte McGregor.

- 3 **Draft Minutes** of combined WMWG and JPFRG Meeting held on 17 October 2022 were approved.

Action: ML to post on website.

- 4 **Action points from last meeting:**

4.1 **Football Club**

SB has initiated the grant application process for the creation of a football pitch with the Football Foundation. He has obtained and circulated a pitch inspection report. A meeting with a representative of the Football Foundation is awaited to explore the availability of a grant. Indicative costs of £4,300 have been given to improve the field from its current state.

Action: SB to continue with grant application process in liaison with the Group.

4.2 **Hedge trimming on Triangular Field**

SB and RXC yet to meet on site.

Action: RXC and SB to meet on site to assess and SB to quote.

4.3 **National Lottery Community Fund**

RC with help from DH has a draft Lottery application ready to be submitted in the category of grant of up to £10,000.

The items originally proposed to be paid for with grant money will cost well in excess of £10,000. So priority is to be given in the application to planting, fencing, bat and dormice boxes and the Interpretation Board.

SB is obtaining a quotation for the Interpretation Board which should be available by the end of the week. Details of the Interpretation Board including information on the mill leat and sheep dip require the prior approval of TDC under the terms of the planning permission. Separate directional signage boards will also be provided.

The application preferably needs to be submitted prior to 23 November after which the application process will change.

Action: SB to forward quotation for Interpretation Board. RC to settle final items for inclusion in the application and DH to submit.

Update - The application to the Community Fund was submitted on the 19th November. We should hear back within 12 weeks.

4.4 Forestry Commission

4.4.1 Oak Bank - Grant application to the England Woodland Creation Offer

Prior to any grant application IPC needs to be registered with the RPA. PS has this in hand. IPC does not need a CPH number and can therefore get on and lodge the relevant form- RLE1 – which also needs to be signed by the tenant, Richard Parr.

With these formalities completed, an application for a Forestry Commission grant- England Woodland Creation Offer- can be considered.

PS and RC met on 2 November and considered that a grant to allow natural colonisation of Oak Bank would be better than an application for tree planting. The site could meet the required criteria of, with 100 saplings established within a five year period and provide a greater open area than a fully planted scheme. There are already between 30 and 40 saplings so established. The total grant period is for 10 years and an officer of the Forestry Commission would advise on management during this period. A grant could potentially provide £6-7000 per hectare. Grant monies could be applied for maintenance as well as capital costs. The total outlay should be modest given the absence of any requirement to fence.

RH expressed concern over the extent of management required during the grant period, as this burden would fall on IPC.

Action: RC to enquire further concerning likely maintenance costs and grant monies for maintenance available and report back.

4.4.2 Oak Bank

PS has obtained quotations to flail the brambles on Oak Bank. The cost is £1,600 plus VAT for two days (which should be sufficient for total removal) or £950 plus VAT for one day. The work would need to be carried out in the winter outside the nesting season (March to October).

PW confirmed that the cost of the works could be funded from the Weir Meadow account. An application for grant monies would be impracticable given the timeframe for the work to be carried out and the wish to make the space open for community use as soon as possible.

PS was concerned that if IPC opted only for a one day flail, that much time could be lost in setting up and dismantling the equipment, and the bramble remaining uncut would quickly spread.

Prior to any flailing operations, RC would identify and mark the saplings which needed to be preserved. PS would be happy to spend one day overseeing the flailing operation with the contractor.

The Group consensus was a recommendation that IPC should commission the flailing of brambles over 2 days in as environmentally considerate a way as possible.

Action: IPC members within the Group to report the Working Group's recommendation to the IPC meeting to be held on 16th November for formal IPC approval. Once approval is given, this should be reported to PS.

Update – IPC approved two days work. This is likely to be undertaken over the weekend of the 18/19 December.

4.5 Weir Meadow Entrance Gate Barrier

NB reported that the barrier had been put in place and keys distributed to relevant parties. There are gaps either side of the barrier to allow pedestrian access – which could be gated at a later time if thought appropriate.

Action: None at present.

4.6 Stile and Pedestrian Gate onto College Lane

NB has liaised with Will Bosworth who has provided a quotation of £1600 inclusive of VAT for a "kissing" gate in the gap in the hedge at the lower entrance on College Lane and a stile at the proposed point of entry into Northern Fields (currently fenced) further up College Lane. Materials have been ordered by IPC on which it can reclaim VAT (circa £150). Richard Parr is happy with the proposal. The work will be carried out within the next couple of weeks.

Action- RC to meet and greet Will Bosworth when work carried out.

4.7 Public Liability Insurance

ML has confirmed that IPC carries public liability insurance in relation to liability to members of the public entering Weir Meadow and Northern Fields.

The wording for signs concerning use by dogs needs to be finalised. In essence, close control in Weir Meadow, free running in Oak Bank and on a lead around the periphery of Northern Fields.

Action: NB to settle text.

4.8 Dog Waste Bins

ML has had appointments with Steve Ramage (dog bin liaison officer at TDC) cancelled on two occasions since the last meeting. The preferred sitings are at the entrance to Weir Meadow and at the bottom of College Lane. The latter may be a challenge for TDC and so a bin by the bus stop/bottom of the High Street would be a compromise. The bins are emptied by TDC free of charge so IPC's negotiating position is not strong.

Action: ML to persevere with Mr Ramage.

4.9 **Levelling, Drainage and Seeding**

AA is obtaining three quotations for the creation of a playing surface for both football and cricket use. For the quotations to be meaningful a design and specification is required. Meetings with designers are taking place with respectively John Smith of GEO Turf Consulting and with the Sports Turf Research Institute.

The designers will provide solutions which will range from the best case to what may be less than ideal but workable.

RXC is meeting a representative of the Devon Cricket Board who will advise what is needed as a minimum standard for grant giving bodies. The works are likely to comprise the stripping of topsoil, drainage works, replacement of topsoil, levelling and seeding. There will be a base specification for both pitches acceptable to grant funding bodies.

RXC has contacted Gavin Hands who has expressed willingness to do groundworks and will quote.

Action: AA and RXC to obtain quotations from GEO Turf Consulting and the Sports Turf Research Institute re design and specification in liaison with the Devon Cricket Board.

4.10 **Management Plan**

RC is to produce a Management Plan with targets and dates to help the Group keep up with the status of the project.

Action: RC to draft Management Plan for the Group's comments.

4.11 **Website**

RC to draft a short entry for the website about Weir Meadow and Northern Fields now that the barrier into Weir Meadow has secured unauthorised entry.

Action: RC to draft.

5 **AOB.**

The action points from the minutes of the 17th October meeting covered all items on the agenda.

RH raised one AOB item suggesting that specific tasks capable of being undertaken by members of the community should be identified and work party days organised for the tasks to be carried out. These should be tabled and approved at the next meeting. The ability to demonstrate community involvement in the project was important both to improve the chances of successful grant applications as well as wider community benefit.

Action: Tasks to be notified to RC before the next meeting and RC to propose work party days.

6 **Next combined meeting of the WMWG and JPFRG Monday 12 December 2022 at 7:30pm on Zoom.**

Approved 12 Dec 2022