

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 12th December 2022 at 7:30pm.**

- 1 **Present:** Richard Cottle (Chair) (RC), Stuart Brooking, Richard Cloke (RXC), Rachel Herbert, David Howe, Mel Liversage and Peter Skinner.
- 2 **Apologies:** Andrew Ash, Nick Bradley, Cheryl Haddy, Charlotte McGregor, Mark Thomas and Phil Willcock.
- 3 **Draft Minutes** of combined WMWG and JPFRG Meeting held on 15 November 2022 were approved.

Action: ML to post on website.

4 **Action points from last meeting:**

4.1 **Football Club**

SB has been introduced to the wife of a club member- Jane- willing and able to assist with the grant application process. She has experience of grant applications and has recently secured £10k for a local Scout troop.

SB is conscious of the need to settle and adopt a written constitution for the Club which he will do with help from DH. Sport England have a generic constitution template which could be a starting point. Alternatively the Cricket Club's constitution could be adapted.

Action: SB to draft constitution with help from DH and continue with grant application process with assistance from Jane. Invite Jane to next meeting.

4.2 **Hedge trimming on Triangular Field**

SB reported that ideally the hedge needs to be re-laid. In the meantime, it should be cut back where it overhangs the highway but otherwise left. The cutting back against the highway is a job which can be done with the help of volunteers.

Action: SB to organise hedge trimming adjacent to the highway with assistance from RC.

4.3 **Oak Bank**

IPC resolved at its meeting on 16th November to commission the flailing of the brambles on Oak Bank over 2 days in as environmentally considerate a way as possible at a cost of £1600 plus VAT.

PS has organised the contractor to carry out the work on the w/e of 17/18th December. RC will tape the saplings to be preserved prior to the works commencing.

Action: PS to liaise with contractor and RC to tape saplings.

Update – The saplings (47 in total) were taped and the flailing successfully undertaken on the 17/18th December (with a couple of extra hours on Monday (19th) morning, due to a late start on the 17th. Thanks very much to Peter Skinner for organising and spending most of a cold Saturday and wet Sunday checking that the works progressed smoothly.

4.4 Stile and Pedestrian Gate onto College Lane

NB is liaising with Will Bosworth as to the position of the stile and gate. The lower entrance gate is due to be installed on 15/12 and the stile at the proposed point of agricultural access into Northern Fields higher up College Lane will be put in place after Christmas. RXC and SB suggested that the stile should not be over engineered as it is likely to be removed when the field access to Northern Fields is established.

Action- NB to liaise with Will Bosworth.

Update – the gate has been installed (looks great) and the stile will be put in place early in the new year.

4.5 Directional Signs

NB has settled the wording for signs concerning use of WM and NFs. Dogs need to be in close control in Weir Meadow, can be free running in Oak Bank and on a lead around the periphery of Northern Fields. No commercial dog walking.

There will be a post mounted sign at the entrance to Weir Meadow and another at the entrance point between Weir Meadow and Northern Fields. There will be a further sign in the proposed entrance to Oak Bank from Northern Fields. Other signs will be attached to the gate and stile off College Lane.

Action: NB to commission erection of signs.

4.6 Dog Waste Bins

ML has succeeded in obtaining TDC's agreement to the siting of 2 new 50 litre dog bins, one at the entrance to Weir Meadow and the other at the upstream end of the College ford. In exchange, TDC will be removing the (dilapidated) waste bin outside the cemetery. All in all, an excellent result. The new bins are currently residing in Nick's garage.

Action: ML and NB to see to the installation of the new bins by TDC.

4.7 Levelling, Drainage and Seeding

AA and RXC have met and corresponded with Nick Goodliffe of Devon Cricket who has inspected the site.

In the absence of junior or women's programmes, NG advised that there will be no funding available from Devon Cricket. This does not mean that funding will be closed from Sport England or the National Lottery or indeed elsewhere.

NG did however provide useful advice and guidance suggesting that the Club calls on the services of the Grounds Management Association and gets specific advice from their Regional Pitch Advisors on the possibilities of development. NG will alert AA and RXC when those advisors are next in the area.

NG in the meantime has provided to the Club ECB specifications for the construction and maintenance of pitches, guidelines on the construction of a cricket square and the layout requirements/positioning of pavilions. Support from Sport England would require compliance with the specs.

NG suggested that the Club might wish to contact specialists TGMS who can provide studies and costings for the new facilities for probably around £3k plus VAT. This would be sufficiently detailed to allow work packages to be tendered. RXC and AA did not think this was good value for money. In their view most of the grant money available was for facilities rather than ground works which would be a factor limiting the extent of works for the creation of a pitch. That said, further research is needed on to the extent of drainage works required and what is appropriate and proportionate for a village pitch.

NG would also like a feature article of the Devon Cricket website about the project to raise profile in the cricket community.

Action: AA and RXC to:

- meet with the Regional Pitch Advisors of the GMA;
- review the guidance provided by the ECB;
- consider what ground works are appropriate in the light of potential grant funding sources and the availability of funds; and
- liaise with NG for the provision of summary information and photographs for the Devon Cricket website article.

4.8 **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.

4.9 **Website**

RC has drafted and circulated a short entry for the PC website about Weir Meadow and Northern Fields.

Action: All to provide any comment to RC before posting.

5 **Agenda items**

5.1 **Access arrangements to Oak Bank**

SB is going to create new access into Oak Bank at the southern end of the hedge running down the centre of Northern Fields. The existing access is going to be closed. He will check that Richard Parr, the tenant, is happy with the proposal and with Julian Perrett that no dormice will be affected by the works.

Action: SB to proceed as above.

Update – SB has cut the new access route through the hedge. Thanks Stuart.

5.2 Update on fund raising

RH reported that CH would like the Group to support the Police Dog Hogan concert due to be held at West Town Farm in the summer. She will advise further at our next meeting.

ML advised that we had a donation of £100 pcm from a generous benefactor and that the Community Shop donations box was raising £5 per week. Every little helps as one of their rivals would say...

Action: CH to report to next meeting.

5.2 Volunteering

RH has formed a Volunteers' WhatsApp Group for various odd jobs which will need to be undertaken and has 22 volunteers so far. This is a good and willing source of labour and an additional means of community engagement.

Jobs include the tagging of saplings, the reduction of Japanese knotweed and hedge trimming adjacent to the highway.

RH has also applied for and obtained from the Environment Agency (with behind the scenes help from RXC) a licence to burn arisings from tree pruning and a licence to use recycled aggregates in the construction of the car park and surrounds.

Action: Any Group member so inclined to contact RH to join the Volunteers' WhatsApp Group.

5.3 Status of grant applications (National Lottery, Councillors' Community Fund, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission)

National Lottery Community Fund- The Lottery application for a little under £10k was submitted and acknowledged on 21st November. The Lottery will get back to us with a decision "in around 12 weeks".

Action: DH to report to the Group any communication from the Lottery.

Councillors' Community Fund- ML reported that applications to TDC had been submitted and money had come in from Cllr Charles Nuttal (£1000) and from Cllr Andy Swain (£200). The money will cover the cost of the new dog waste bins.

Woodland Trust- RC had applied to the Woodland Trust for 420 saplings and guards. His application has been successful and delivery is expected at the end of March. These could be deployed along the bank by the stream and to plug gaps in existing hedges. A likely job for the Volunteers' Group.

Action- RC to work out planting scheme and get RH to organise volunteers at the appropriate time.

England Woodland Creation Grant- RH had expressed concern that the 10 year woodland grant should not give rise to an unacceptable maintenance burden for the PC.

RC explained that the grant was incremental with various sums made available for particular activities. One element was maintenance for which £200/hectare /year would be made available. There were payments for access, creation of wildlife habitat and prevention of run-off into watercourses. All elements together could produce circa £6000 (one-off payment). Money would be available for capital items (e.g. stock fencing), but at £5per metre, this may not cover all of the costs.

There could potentially be significant maintenance work requiring strimming /spraying off which would probably need to be undertaken by forestry contractors but there should be sufficient monies in the one-off grant to cover the cost. It should be born in mind that the proposed application relates to a low level of planting density with reliance placed on natural recolonisation.

Action: RC and SB to review the grant application prior to submission to ensure the PC's concerns are met- but otherwise to get on and submit.

6 **AOB.**

ML reported that of the £16.5k available for either the Weir Meadow project or the Orchard project, £15k had now been transferred to the Weir Meadow account from the Orchard account leaving just £1.5k to be transferred at a later date.

7 **Next combined meeting of the WMWG and JPFRG**

Monday 13th February at 7:30pm- whether in person or on Zoom to be advised nearer the time.

Approved 13 February 2023.