

## **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 at Plane Trees Ide on Monday 10 July 2023 at 7:30pm.**

**1. Present:** Richard Cottle (Chair) (RCX), Rich Cloke (RCY), Peter Skinner (PS), Andrew Ash (AA), Stuart Brooking (SB), David Howe (DH), Mel Liversage (ML) and Nick Bradley (NB).

**2. Apologies:** Rachel Herbert and Cheryl Haddy.

**3. Noted** that Charlotte McGregor has stepped down; and that Phil Willcock will continue to provide finance data for each meeting, but cannot attend in person at present. The group expressed their warm thanks to both members.

**4.** Members expressed their profound sadness at the tragic death of Peter Cloke on May 19. This meeting had originally been set for 22 May, but was cancelled following Peter's loss. It was re-arranged for 3 July, but was then moved on a week, to 10 July, since 3 July was the day of Peter's funeral.

**5. Draft Minutes** of combined WMWG and JPFRG meeting held on 17 April 2023, and the draft minutes of a pitches subgroup meeting held on 1 June 2023 were both approved.

Action: ML to post on website.

#### **6. ACTION POINTS from last meeting**

##### **6.1 Draft constitution for Football Club.**

Constitution is still being worked on by the club and a colleague Tim Bland at F Devon FA. It is important to have this document finalised to ensure that, when IPC grants leases to sports clubs, it will not have to charge VAT on the rent.

Action: SB to pursue Devon FA and provide a full draft onto the agenda of the next WG meeting for consideration.

##### **6.2 Hedge cutting.**

Richard Parr is pulling out of his tenancy, so we will ask another contractor to do this in November.

Action: PS to engage a contractor in the autumn

##### **6.3 Car park area and water filled ditch at the entrance**

AA has made the calculations – see sports pitch sub group minutes. But we now agree that we should hold action on this until the smooth green surface has been created: too soon to do it now.

Action: hold until playing field surface complete

#### **6.4 Interpretation Board**

DH provided further information after speaking to Sylvia Moore. The sheep dip was to the south of the road, not in Fordlands Brook (our leat); and the mill in High Street was used for tucking wool (serge) not corn. Yet to hear from Andy Bragg and Martyn Robson. Still work in progress.

Action: DH and NB continue researching

#### **6.5 Benches**

RH is in process of getting another quote. RCY has installed a bench on Oak Bank overlooking the current cricket pitch, funded by media work done by Nick Irving.

Action: RH complete obtaining quotes

#### **6.6 Fencing**

SB has met with Will Bosworth and Phil Bye asking them to quote. Phil Bye has subsequently said he cannot do it. Frys are coming out next week to quote; and Will Bosworth is expected to quote.

Action: Andrew will send SB Strawbridge's phone number for another possible quote.

#### **6.7 Japanese knotweed**

RCX has contacted four contractors. Environet only do commercial or domestic for insurance. CYB have not quoted. SW Knotweed advised cost will be £385 for a survey; a 25 page report and plan for 3 years, cost £2.5k-3k. Agreed this is too much.

Action: Peter Skinner has the kit and will treat the stand of knotweed in the next 2 weeks.

#### **6.8 Sport England small grants**

This grant source has now closed.

#### **6.9 GMA and FA grants for football pitch**

SB suggested hanging on until we have completed the "agricultural" option for creating the smooth recreation ground surface. So Ide Football Club will not make an application for now, preferring to see how the new smooth surface works out.

#### **7. Membership of the working party**

Phil Willcock has had to withdraw from attending meetings through pressure of work, but will continue to provide regular financial reports.

Mark Thomas has stood down from the working party to concentrate on leading the Orchard group.

#### **8. Sports pitches preparation**

Peter Skinner set out the schedule of works that would be required to achieve this. The work would involve spraying with glyphosate (to kill off grass and weeds), topping and flail mowing, subsoiling, ploughing and rolling; then spring tining, power harrowing and drilling, rolling, fertilise and lime and then a second spray. This would produce a seed

bed into which a sports pitch grade seed mix could be sown, with the aim of achieving playable surfaces for early summer 2024. It was agreed at the meeting that the works to prepare the field for sowing could be undertaken by an agricultural contractor but that the sowing of the seed mix should be undertaken by a specialist contractor.

Peter has spent considerable effort in finding a contractor willing to undertake the agricultural work. Perseverance has paid off though! Richard Berry (Pennycombe Farm) has mowed and bailed the grass (now removed). Ed Mortimer will undertake the rest of the works to prepare the initial surface for the seed (quoted cost of £1,040), with the spraying to be undertaken by mid-July. Peter is now in the process of getting quotes from specialist ground maintenance contractors to prepare the final surface and sow the seed mix. The first quote received from CGM is for £6,500, the grass seed costing £3,400. PS reported that the grass has been cut and baled. Now greening up. Next will kill weeds, then plough then harrow in the next few weeks.

Agreed also to get two other specialist comparative quotes from GMA (SB to do) and Wellington Sports Pitches, Tom Jones (PS to do).

Action: Peter Skinner to obtain quote from Wellington Sports Pitches to compare with CGM's quote

Action: Stuart Brooking to get quote from GMA

## **9. National Lottery Fund Grant**

RCX reminded us that the grant covers fencing (quotes awaited), benches (quotes awaited), interpretation board (information research in hand), bird and bat boxes (wait till winter), and tree planting labour (late autumn, early winter). Agree we prefer spaced trees rather than hedging shown on original drawings.

## **10. Tenancy of Northern Fields**

Richard Parr (RP) has asked to be relieved of his two year tenancy, due to end 29 Sept 2024, in Sept 2023. His winter grain crop failed. He is claiming that the lease has been frustrated by dog owners allowing their dogs to run in the field, possibly contaminating the ground and rendering the grass crop unsafe to use as animal feed.

DH advised the group that IPC had taken all measures to fulfil its duties under the lease in respect of signage that dogs must be kept on a lead. We also observed that Richard Parr had cut and baled the grass in black plastic wrappers, and removed the crop.

ML informed us that Richard Parr had not paid the second half of his rent, £550, due March 2023.

We agreed to recommend to the IPC that RP might be released from the lease at 29 Sept 2023 on condition that he trims the hedges as he is bound to do before Sept 29 2023, pays his March 2023 bill, and returns the key to the main gate.

Action: ML to send further reminders of unpaid bill in hard copy and email, to RP's shop address in Matford and his farm address in Woodbury.

Action: NB to raise for discussion on further action at IPC meeting 19 7 23.

## **11. Future use of Northern Fields**

Agreed that we should take advantage of the early end of the lease and bring forward the Council's and the Working Group's long term vision for the N Fields as amenity community broadleaf woodland, with a sensitive design allowing for open glades and walking paths. It is likely also that income from Woodland Creation scheme, Woodland Carbon Credits and Biodiversity Net Gain will be greater than the £1100 a year tenancy rent, as the criteria for the number of required hectares have changed in our favour.

Action: DH liaise with Julian Perrett about BNG

Action: NB report and discuss at IPC, with a view to letter to RP.

Action: RCX to contact Woodland Creation officer to get things going.

#### **10. Restoration of Old pedestrian bridge**

We have a pledge for £2100 from the Twinning Association, but have yet to receive the money. Clive Voaden came back to SB to say that he was unable to quote or carry out the work. So we instructed Bob Lowton, who is set to begin work on the restoration on 18 July, filling the eroded north bank of the bridge arch with rough hewn rock, then facing with the original dark grey stone sitting on the stream's bed.

Post meeting update: work started on 18 July. Will Bosworth will install an oak post at each end of the bridge when Bob Lowton's restoration is complete, to prevent vehicular access over the bridge.

Action: Mel to chase David Williams about the Twinning funds.

#### **11. Fundraising**

The Police Dog Hogan concert on 8 July, with Freddie and the Fedoras, and Sisters and Sons was a riproaring success, netting £4k in ticket sales for the Orchard and £3k in bar and food profit for Weir Meadow. The Fashion Show in May raised £900. And RCY reported that there will be £2k coming to village projects from the collection at Peter Cloke's funeral.

#### **12. Volunteering**

We need a working party for vegetation clearance around the small new trees planted Feb 2023. Brambles also need spraying on Oak Bank.

Action: Richard Cottle to contact Rachel Herbert to call a volunteer session on the Gren Spaces WhatsApp group.

Action: Peter Skinner will assemble a working party from the WG to spray Oak Bank.

#### **13. Next WMWG meeting Monday 4 September 2023, 7.30pm at Plane Trees.**

NCAB 21 July 2023

Approved 4 September 2023