

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 4 September 2023 at 7:30pm.

1. Present: Richard Cottle (CR) chair, David Howe (DH), Mel Liversage (ML) and Nick Bradley (NB).

2. Apologies received from: Cheryl Haddy, Richard Cloke, Peter Skinner, Stuart Brooking and Andrew Ash

3. Draft Minutes of combined WMWG and JPFRG meeting held on 10 July 2023 were approved.

Action: ML to post on website.

4. ACTION POINTS from last meeting

4.1 Draft constitution for Football Club.

SB had emailed RC to report that there was no document for the group to consider tonight, but that it would be available next week.

Action: RC to write to SB to say we need the document as soon as possible, after it has been approved both by the Devon FA, and by David Howe from a legal perspective. We should not delay until the next meeting. RC will ask SB to call an EGM of Ide Football Club and to send him (RC) the minutes to show that it has been approved, along with a copy of the constitution.

4.2 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. This action still pertains

4.3 Car park area and water filled ditch at the entrance

After further discussion, group agreed to press ahead. AA obtained best value quote from Bob Lowton, who filled the hole with aggregate during the last week of August. Very good result.

4.4 Interpretation Board

Still work in progress.

Action: DH and NB continue researching. Can request a deferral of lottery funding if necessary.

4.5 Benches

RH is in process of getting another quote.

Action: As RH not at this meeting, RC write to RH to ask her for the full set of quotes.

4.6 Fencing

No quotes received by the working group so far.

RC write to SB asking him for the set of quotes.

4.7 Japanese knotweed

Action: Peter Skinner has sprayed twice, and will spray again – still an ongoing battle.

5. Sports pitches preparation

Splendid progress. All but last two stages of preparation have been actioned. Cultivation and seed drilling start 5 Sept.

Post meeting update: at time of typing notes, the seed has been in a week, and the meadow is smooth and green with new grass.

Action: Sam Burdick to return in next 2 weeks to seed the area by entrance which was spread with the soil heap from the hole filling.

6. 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.

Keep on agenda as standing item so as not to lose thread.

7. Tenancy of Northern Fields

Last meetings' action all made. No response from RHP despite three reminders with a final demand phone, emailed and posted.

Action: NB with advice from DH and Jess Paine to draft, revise and send two letters: one a notice of court action, and one a Without Prejudice offer of a compromise. We will suggest allowing RHP to end tenancy at the end of the first year, on 29 Sept 2023, in return for his paying rent for the full two years now, and returning the key.

Post meeting update: both letters sent by Royal Mail and email to RHP and his PA Joe Haywood on 13 Sept 2023.

8. Future use of Northern Fields and BNG

See last meeting's approach.

No information so far from Julian Perrett on BNG

SB has spoken to Woodland Creation Officer at Forestry Commission – too busy to help at present.

RC proposed we get on and put in an application for Woodland Creation Scheme now anyway.

Action: DH speak with Environment Bank for BNG advice

Action: RC to inform SB that is what we are going to do.

Action: RC to obtain forms, complete and submit an application to Woodland Creation Scheme

9. Restoration of Old pedestrian bridge

The bridge is complete, the £2100 from Twinning was paid to us, and Will Bosworth installed oak posts and rails last week of August. It is beautiful. Vote of thanks passed to WB for giving his time for no charge on this job. We paid for oak materials only.

10. Volunteering

PS has sprayed brambles in Oak Bank. More yet to do.

No volunteering sessions organised in last 2 months.

Action: RC to request mulch from Andy Bragg

11. Peter Cloke's legacy

Richard Cloke had reported to RC that Weir Meadow will receive £1.75k for something tangible for the project.

Action: discuss at next meeting.

12. Artificial cricket wicket

R Cloke has sought three quotes and on site appraisals in September.

Action: discuss quotes and a plan at next meeting.

13. Sports England Small Grant Scheme

R Cloke has offered to pursue this again, as it has re-opened.

Action: NB to write to R Cloke to thank him, and give WG's support in pursuing this.

14. Fencing off of playing areas, and lease arrangements with cricket and football clubs.

Action: NB advise R Cloke and SB to liaise in marking out the pitch boundaries this autumn, with a view to simple stick and rope demarcation.

Action: NB call a sub group meeting to hammer out lease, rent and tenancy arrangements for the two clubs. Sub group to be: R Cloke, S Brooking, D Howe, N Bradley.

Post meeting update: Sub group will meet at 7pm on 23 October at Smallridge House.

15. The group were delighted to hear of the generous donation of £952.20 from Ide Rugby Club following its winding up. NB has thanked Nigel Gooding, the IRC chairman. We agreed to plant a tree with a plaque in oak Bank to commemorate this.

Action: R Cloke to arrange with N Gooding for tree and plaque in the winter.

16. Finance

There is £37,304.99 in the Recreation Ground account.

17. Next WMWG meeting Monday 6 November 2023, 7.30pm at Plane Trees.

NCAB 14 Sept 2023

Approved 6 November 2023