

Ide Parish Council

Weir Meadow Working Group and Ide Joint Projects Fund Raising Group

Approved minutes of a combined meeting of the two Working Groups held at Plane Trees Ide on Monday 6 November 2023 at 7:30pm.

Present: Richard Cottle (RC) chair, Rachel Herbert (RH), Peter Skinner (PS), Rich Cloke (RichC), Harry Studholme (HS), Andrew Ash (AA), Mel Liversage (ML) and Nick Bradley (NB).

1. Apologies received from: Cheryl Haddy (CH), Stuart Brooking (SB) and David Howe (DH).

2. To increase public participation and transparency it was AGREED that future meetings of the group will be held in public at the Hub, Ide High Street.

Action: ML liaise with RC to book the Hub

3. Draft Minutes of combined WMWG and JPFRG meeting held on 4 September 2023 were approved. **Action:** ML to post on website.

4. ACTION POINTS from last meeting

4.1 Constitution of Ide Green Rovers Amateur Football Club (the proper name for the club). SB and DH confirmed by email on 19 September that the club's constitution has been accepted as compliant by the Devon FA.

4.2 Hedge cutting. PS advised that our N. Field hedges, while not as short clipped as the neighbouring farmer's, are acceptable for the rest of the coming winter, and will not need cutting this autumn.

Update: Note for info - a possible hedge cutter is Tristan Miles on 07977 786444 (message from HS).

Action: NB to report the overgrown state of the hedgerow – interfering with traffic, pedestrians and horse riders downhill from our land towards the ford - on Devon CC website.

4.3 Benches

Action: RH will pick this task up again to obtain a set of quotes.

4.4 Fencing

SB was unable to attend this meeting at the last minute. He emailed notes on price per unit received from Culver Sawmills; and on responses from other contractors who have yet to quote. RC reported that he has negotiated an extension to the Lottery grant from 13 Jan 2024 to 13 August 2024. It is too wet to install fencing now – ideal time is June.

Therefore AGREED to install fencing in June 2024 using the Lottery grant; and book contractors for that month.

Contractors to be asked to give written quotes for work commencing June 2024:

- Culver Sawmills
- Will Bosworth of WB Fencing
- Phil Sorrel
- Strawbridge

Action: NB to liaise with SB over obtaining written quotes from contractors, and booking one for June.

UPDATE post meeting. Following discussion between NB, SB, RC and AA, it was agreed that AA will take on this task, [allowing SB to concentrate w RC on plans for Woodland Creation Scheme, see below].

4.5 Japanese knotweed

PS reported that he and RichC had applied two treatments of Roundup, then felled and burnt the standing weed. Plan to repeat in April / May 2024, and again over next 4 years; and it will eventually disappear. Vote of warm thanks made to PS and RichC for this effort.

Action: Keep on going!

4.6 Peter Cloke's legacy.

RichC reported that Peter left £3,500 to be split equally between the Orchard and Weir Meadow projects. Rich suggests that the £1,750 for WM goes towards the artificial cricket wicket (and see later item).

4.7 Sports England Small Grants Scheme

RichC reported that the scheme had recently opened up again, offering up to £15k per annum for community sports projects. AGREED that applying for funds for a tractor and mower should be first item.

Action: RichC to proceed with a grant application as above.

4.8 Football Foundation and other grant giving bodies

SB reported by email that Ide FC intends to apply to the Football Foundation via its PitchPower scheme for equipment such as fencing, goals, flags, pavilion, mowers. First a fresh pitch inspection report must be submitted, which SB will do now; then applications will be presented to the WMWG before submission.

Action: SB to submit fresh pitch inspection report.

SB reported also that the FC is also applying for a similar equipment grant to Cash4clubs under the Sported.org.uk banner.

5. Northern Fields

5.1 Tenancy. NB reported that the tenancy with Richard Parr ended on 29 September 2023 by mutual agreement. Mr Parr has now paid his rent in full for the year 2023/24 of his tenancy, and returned the keys.

5.2 Plans for the future of N Fields

The group AGREED that we should pursue plans to create a community woodland. RC has been in touch with Jacob Taylor, forestry officer for S Hams and Teignbridge.

RC presented an initial outline scheme for the fields, drawn up by him and SB, showing a grass area to the NW; and two areas left for natural regeneration to the east, and the SW.

HS advised strongly that we should apply for the FC (now Forestry England) Woodland Creation planning and design grant: the more people look at the fields the better; and we need not, and should not, rush it [as our priority for now is Weir Meadow]. HS advised that natural

regeneration is likely to prove too difficult because of deer attack, and brambles taking over as they had done over years on steep scrub (Oak Bank).

HS advised that getting a good design is paramount, autumn colour, and the vista from the village and valley are important. We are short of plant resilient, attractive space for people to walk in. HS advised get really good (not free) trees; and guard against going for native broadleaf, English species, as these are susceptible to diseases from global warming (viz elm, ash and English oak), not good for carbon capture, and tend to dominate in mediocre woodland currently being created. Our palate of native trees is narrow.

HS suggested maple, red oak, liquid amber, tulip, cherry, sweet chestnut, Indian horse chestnut, mulberry, rowan. For wind breaks use Scotts pine, sequoia; quercus petraea; insect friendly trees, and wild flowers.

HS advised to plant close together now, to encourage vertical growth, with a view to taking some out later (in about 20 years) to create glades and specimen trees; leave room for memorial trees and for education activities.

Try shrub roses and buddleia.

AGREED action: NB report to IPC with our recommendation to press ahead with application for planning & design grant, and appoint a designer.

5.3 Environment Bank [EB]

Post meeting update: On 8 Nov DH belatedly received a response to his enquiry about using The Environment Bank to help us create a biodiverse area in the N Fields, attracting valuable BNG units. Once registered, free of cost and commitment the EB would visit to assess our site and advise whether and how they might be able to help.

RC will now lodge the registration.

Action: agenda item for next meeting.

5.4 Triangular Field

Members again raised the possibilities for using Triangular Field better: suggestions include creating a dog free area for families; maybe with a pond.

No action agreed: raise as item at next meeting. Will need someone from the group to take this on and lead it.

6. Weir Meadow sports pitches preparation

6.1 The new grass is growing healthily.

6.2 Rope and post temporary fencing was installed by RichC last week to keep people and dogs off the newly grassed areas.

AGREED that we will take all Sam Burdick's advice and stay off the grass until August 2024, or such date that he advises.

6.3. PS noted that Ed Mortimer has not yet sent in his bill.

Action: PS remind Ed Mortimer to submit his bill.

6.4 New signage needed to advise about staying off new grass; and about change in arrangements in N Fields, where people and dogs may now walk and run freely.

Action: NB replace typed signs about keeping off new grass: **DONE 8 Nov.**

Action: NB remove and replace permanent signage to keep up to date w new arrangements.

7. Weir Meadow Sports Pitch Lease and Management

7.1 A sub group, comprising NB, RichC, SB and DH met on 23 October 2023. The minutes of that meeting (sent out as a paper with agenda) were considered by the group. The paper set out the background to our intention to provide a football pitch, a cricket pitch and public grass areas on the Meadow; how that might be managed in practical terms, with special reference to dogs; what lease and financial arrangements the Parish Council might come to with the clubs; and a series of four options, with a favoured recommendation. After discussion, the group AGREED to adopt option 4, and to recommend this option to the IPC when it meets on 22 November 2023.

Action: NB to take the paper with the options and recommendation to IPC for decision.

8. Strimming round saplings planted in February

RichC will ask SB to arrange for professional strimmer within 2 weeks; if not possible, agreed other members of the group are capable of doing this and have equipment needed.

Action: RichC

9. Fund raising

RH reported that she, CH and others are putting on a Bingo night this Friday 10 Nov in the hall to raise funds for Ide Green Spaces; and a Christmas market in early December. Warm vote of thanks to RH and CH was given by group.

10. Finance

There is £29,497.86 in the Recreation Ground account.

11. Next WMWG and Joint Projects Fund Raising Group meeting is on Monday 15 January 2024, 7.30pm in The Hub, High Street, Ide.

NCAB 12 November 2023

Approved 15 January 2024