

IDE PARISH COUNCIL

Approved minutes of a meeting of Weir Meadow and Joint Fund Raising Group
Monday 19 August 2024, 7.30pm, The Hub, Ide High Street.

1. Present: Rich Cloke (chair), Mel Liversage, Richard Cottle, Andrew Ash, Stuart Brooking and David Howe.

2. Apologies: Nick Bradley, Peter Skinner.

3. Minutes of last meeting on 15th July 2024 were approved.

Matters arising by reference to the action points on those minutes are as follows:

4. Lease and agreement for lease

Stat Dec made by Rich Cloke and AfL now exchanged.

5. Woodland Creation Planning Grant - Forestry Commission Scheme

Is proceeding to Stage 2 in the grant application process. This involves the design of the woodland including layout, species etc. Julia Matthews has been instructed. Aim is to lodge the application by 1st November 2024 having undertaken a consultation exercise on the initial design. If approved start hard works in Summer 2025 (paths, fencing etc.) and planting in Winter 2025/26. Issues concerning JM's formal appointment being resolved.

6.1 Grass and hedge cutting

Grass was cut in Northern Fields on 16th August by County Grounds Maintenance in record time.

8.3 Hogging path and wooden boardwalk

AA's contacts are unwilling to quote for the hogging path. See this item 11 below.

8.4 Interpretation board

The design of the Interpretation Board is complete, has been approved by the working party and NB has forwarded it to Teignbridge DC for approval in compliance with Condition 11 of the Change of Use planning permission.

The application has been submitted late- but a note of explanation has been given to TDC.

The application has been validated which means it is in proper form and TDC accepts that the underlying planning permission has not lapsed. Due to delays in the Planning team, we will not hear from TDC until October. The board has been paid for from National Lottery monies before the expiry date of 13th August.

8.5 Specimen tree planting

R Cottle has placed the tree order- no further action.

9. Sport England Movement Fund

Application for a mower has been rejected as Weir Meadow failed to meet the awarding body's inequalities requirements and their need to see inactivity reduced.

10. Football Association PitchPower fund

SB has marked out pitch. See item 10 below.

11. Security

Rich Cloke has delayed ordering bollards until the width of the mower is known.

14. Container for football changing room.

The offer of the container remains. We will need to organise transport.

4. Lease and agreement for lease

No further action needed until the non turf wicket is installed scheduled for the w/b 26th August.

5. Woodland Creation Planning Grant - Forestry Commission Scheme

See matters arising.

Action: NB to report on progress of matters outlined to next meeting.

6. Ide Revel.

Plans are progressing well. Recent pub quiz and pancake breakfast raised £924.92 added to which Emma Ward has sold on her raffle prize of a weekend at Beautiful Days for £400.00 and is donating this whole sum to the Revel. Mel produced a spreadsheet showing we are more than covered by sponsorship and donations in the event of a wash out.

Usual problems with brokers / insurers over PL cover but with thanks to Mel, hopefully we are getting there. Risk assessments have been done. PS and Mel are obtaining a quote from NFUM.

Action: Pray for good weather.

7 National Lottery

All National Lottery monies were spent before the 13th August deadline to include picnic tables now all made up (thanks again to the cricket club), the Interpretation Board and specimen trees ordered.

8. Sport England Movement Fund

See Matters arising. Thanks and commiserations to Nick for his wasted effort.

10. Football Association PitchPower fund & equipment

SB reported that the PitchPower report had been accepted and recommendations made for improvements to the football pitch in line with expectations.

Acceptance of the report is the gateway to applying for grant monies for machinery and equipment which, if successful, could fund up to 75% of the VAT inclusive cost (query whether a VAT element funded by the FA would be properly recoverable by IPC).

SB explained that to qualify for funding Ide Green Rovers needed to belong to a league- and there had been some doubt as to whether there were sufficient teams (4 only) to support the continuation of the league into which IGR qualifies. He is however satisfied that those doubts have now been removed.

Research has been undertaken by SB/PS and RC in relation to equipment suitability. The need for it to be sized to fit in a shipping container for security and weather protection was discussed. Any equipment should also be able to enable the grass to be cut to a suitable length in a realistic time span. The FA has preferred suppliers and requires certain terms including the provision of manufacturers' guarantees.

Items for which grant monies are available include a tractor (research with Devon Garden Machinery shows that a 40 HP motor would be adequate to avoid the need for a gear box on more powerful engines) and various attachments (flail, roller, groomer etc), storage containers and moveable goals.

SB has received a quote from DGM (Izeki supplier and quoted equipment would cut 5.3 acres/hour) and is meeting Mason Kings (John Deere supplier) on 21/08/24.

There would be advantages in using a local supplier -eg Radmore and Tucker for ease of follow up service - and who for that reason may be better than DGM even if more expensive. Both should be invited to quote.

SB also reported that Devon County FA had made an award of £400 for a spray line marker.

Actions: RC to obtain quote from R&T – POST MEETING UPDATE: R&T UNABLE TO SUPPLY COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT LIKE THIS.

SB to send the product of his research and list of preferred equipment to NB for inclusion in the bid to the FA after consultation with Richard Cloke that the machinery will meet the requirements of both Clubs and is sufficiently versatile to be of service to the wider estate and the Orchard.

11.1 Hogging path and wooden boardwalk

SB will produce a specification for the hogging path and board walk based on something in his archive and supply to AA. SB will provide a photo of the path at Cowick Barton Fields as an example of the type that would be appropriate.

The works need to be undertaken whilst the ground is still dry- ie it is urgent.

Action: SB to produce a specification and between them SB and AA to identify a contractor to carry out the work. [Perhaps the one who carried out work at Cowick Barton Fields?]. RC to assist AA in contractor identification.

11.2 Mowing regime and condition of grass

WM - Grass is tillering away so not too bad. Topography not as smooth as we would have liked – yet to roll so hopefully that will help. Not yet good enough for cricket (unsafe) but passable for football. Football pitch white lines have all but disappeared. Mowing continuing once per week. Japanese Knotweed has been re-sprayed and is well under control.

11.3 Other maintenance matters

Other items of maintenance were identified beyond grass cutting- in particular strimming, litter picking etc. This would not be a problem for Northern Fields as generous maintenance grants were available associated with Woodland grant but would be an issue for WM.

Many activities would be suitable for volunteers but other activities- eg strimming which carries potential civil liability for personal injury- may best be placed via a commercial contract- for which there was no budget in the absence of an increase in the Parish Precept.

Action- Assess extent of maintenance required, what suitable for volunteers and what needs to be contracted in- with associated cost. No one putting themselves forward to take ownership of this.

11. Security

See Matters arising.

Action: Rich Cloke will place the order once gap between bollards to prevent theft of mowing equipment ascertained.

12. AOB

12.1 The planning permission for the new pavilion has expired for want of implementation.

All planning conditions on the change of use permission have been satisfied (Condition 11 – Interpretation Board approval application validated) other than Condition 10:

Within three months of the commencement of development a management plan for the roadside boundary hedges shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The agreed management plan shall thereafter be implemented.

Richard Cottle will put together a plan drawn by reference to the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan- which he is pretty confident already covers the point and will provide to NB to submit.

Action- as above.

12.2 The triangular field is in need of strimming and cutting. SB will put in a quotation to IPC on a cost only basis.

Action- as above.

13. Next meeting: Monday 7 October 2024, 7.30 pm, The Hub.

DH 20 8 24.

Approved 7 October 2024