

IDE PARISH COUNCIL

Approved minutes of a meeting of Weir Meadow and Joint Fund Raising Group
Monday 7 October 2024, 7.30pm, The Hub, Ide High Street

1. Present: Peter Skinner (chair), Mel Liversage, Rich Cloke, Stuart Brooking, Nick Bradley, Harry Studholme and Rachel Herbert.

Julia Matthews, woodland designer, attended for the first hour for item 3 only.

2. Apologies: David Howe, Andrew Ash, Richard Cottle.

3. Community Woodland Creation Design Scheme – Northern Fields

3.1 Julia presented two poster panels describing the project and the design, ahead of the public consultation event scheduled for 10 October in Memorial Hall, 17.00 – 19.00.

3.2 She explained the constraints and features of the site (underground water main, bomb craters, slope, middle hedge); design of pathways and open spaces; preservation of vistas; and choice of trees.

3.3 Agreed to include a plan to reduce height of ash trees to a hedge along S border to allow good viewing of sports ground.

3.4 Discussed deer protection, which will be needed in some form. Agreed will end up with a mixture of tubes to 1.5m and fencing (larger planted block in western section), as a balance between restricting public access, trapping deer, and losing trees to deer.

3.5 Should get £26k for pathways – not enough to have hogged paths throughout. Agreed match 'hogged' paths to ££ available.

3.6 JM explained that play equipment will be important in the early years of the woodland, to make it relevant before trees grow.

3.7 Will need mixture of fast and slow growing trees. FC likely to suggest a less varied palette of trees than JM proposes – topic for future negotiation.

3.8 NB undertook to proof read the panels that night, email JM, and final panels to be printed on 10th, ready for public consultation event that evening, which will involve two sessions, at 17.00 and 18.00, starting w intro from NB, then presentation by JM, then discussion, w written feedback from attendees.

ACTION: NB, JM and ML work as above to put on and log the consultation event.

4. Minutes of meeting held 19 August 2024 were approved.

5. Lease of part of Weir Meadow to cricket club. RC and NB reported that the lease documents and letters had all been signed. The new artificial wicket had been installed on

19 and 20 September, without hitch – the CC are very pleased with it. NB confirmed that Slatter’s invoice had been paid by BACS today.

6. Ide Revel. RH reported that the organising group’s ambition is to make it annual event. Feedback is that it would be better to start later; and have more bar staff. ML presented the final accounts for the Revel, showing a positive balance of £3,640.33.

ACTION: RH and PS report next meeting on plans for 2025.

7. Interpretation Board Weir Meadow. NB reported that it will be installed on 9 October.

8. Specimen trees for north east corner of WM. PS reported that the trees have arrived, now at Plane Trees. Agreed plant in Nov or Dec; not too deep. Get a working party; and ensure that PS and R Cloke are present when positioned and planted.

ACTION: PS liaise to pick a date and set up planting

9. Football league. SB reported that the Devon and Exeter Sunday Football League is now active and running; and is affiliated to the FA. SB reported that he has submitted a FF small grants application for a container and goals. Line marker already approved, not yet delivered.

10. Mowing machinery. R Cloke and SB reported that their recommended choice of compact tractor is a John Deere 3038E. This plus a dual roller mower and an aerator will cost £36,442 exc VAT (which we will have to pay, but can reclaim). If we are successful in obtaining a Football Foundation grant, we will have to contribute 25% of this cost = £9,000. At current rates for mowing from CGM, we would spend c.£9k in about two years, so buying this equipment makes good sense.

ACTION: NB continue uphill battle to get FF to fix the online platform IT errors so that IPC is recognised and we can lodge an application.

11. Perimeter (hoggin) path, container bases, security bollards.

11.1 R Cloke reported on quotes received.

Quote 1. Path 200m, at 1.8m wide, leaving spoil on site, using terram, topped off, rolled, just above ground level; plus two areas for containers; plus installing bollards provided is £14,000. If topped with Hoggin, cost is £17,000 (no VAT).

Quote 2. Path 273m, stone and scalpings, spoil left on site, cost £14,400 (no VAT).

Quote 3. Path 275m, stone, scalpings, spoil left on site, cost £15850 (no VAT).

We don’t currently have the funds to cover this.

Also agreed bollards on hold for now.

11.2 Agreed we could fence the ground off again if it becomes waterlogged over winter, leaving a wider 2-3m path to avoid become too muddy. SB suggested wood chipping the path if this happened - ?cost £3-4k –

ACTION: SB to obtain a quote for wood chipping existing perimeter path.

12. Mowing regime.

- PS and RC reported that undulations are bouncing the mower. Solution is time, possibly rolling and alternating direction of mow.
- Concern about couch grass allayed by Bruce Slade: not couch, it's meadow grass, not a real problem, will take another year to settle and establish.
- Soil thought to remain low in nutrient

ACTION: PS do soil analysis any time NOW with a view to fertilizer in spring

ACTION: PS and RH gather working party, set a date, to spot seed bare patches w top soil – any time NOW

ACTION: PS book CGM to mow in about three weeks time if dry enough.

13. Hole in western hedge into Voysey's Field

RC reported that the gap had now been secured with fencing, a gate and a lock.

Cricket Club will continue to rent the whole of Voysey's Field next year to protect the use of their pavilion.

14. Next meeting Monday 25 November 2024, 7.30 pm, The Hub.

NCAB 13 Oct 2024

Approved 25 Nov 2024