



**The notes from the meeting of the Open Spaces Project Group held in The Garden Room, All Saints Church, Gurnard on Wednesday 2 December 2015 at 7.00pm.**

**PRESENT: Councillor** McKean

**Community Representatives:** Martin Bilson (Chair), Georgina Austin, Jenny Schofield, Ben Cooke

**22 APOLOGIES**

There were apologies for absence were received from Heather Westby, Joyce Martin, Jeremy Murton, and Councillor Fuller.

**23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**24 MEETING NOTES**

The notes of the meeting held on 30 September 2015 were approved and signed by the chairman.

**25 PROJECT UPDATE**

- a) A Grow Wild funding application has been completed by the Chairman and clerk. A sum of £4,000 has been applied for, and if successful will provide funding for the project based around the wild flower meadow, arboretum and pond areas. Funding has been requested for plants, trees, a shed, tools, picnic tables, litter and dog bins. At the time of applying, Cockleton Meadow was the only project on the Isle of Wight. The completion date was 01/12/15 and the decisions will be announced in February 2016, and if successful, the funding must be spent between March and October 2016. 1<sup>st</sup> Gurnard Scout Group have offered support, including the social media part of the bid which was requested.
- b) Martin has obtained some “free trees” which he heeled into a trough at the end of November. These need to be planted before March 2016. They will be planted to form a natural barrier between the project and the new development on the old school site.
- c) Green Gym has been booked for 24/02/16.
- d) It appears that a pedestrian access gate is on site by the roundabout – this to be further investigated. The main gate is now unlocked to provide “open access” with a sign on it, but it is being left shut.
- e) Councillor McKean took the apples and pictures for identification to Deacon Nursery. She will chase up the results. The labels on the trees will not last the winter, so the clerk will laminate new ones.
- f) A request has been received to plant two memorial trees on the site. This was agreed by the group and the clerk will advise them. The trees and plaques will be at no cost to the project.
- g) A rotavator is required for the Community Growing Area. Martin will obtain costs of hiring one for a weekend and the clerk will confirm funds left in the budget for the next meeting.
- h) A sequential composting area will be considered and costed for the Community Growing Area.
- i) The name of the Project was agreed by all as “Cockleton Meadow”.

# GURNARD PARISH COUNCIL

## 26 APPLE HARVEST

140 kilos of apples were taken to Rosemary Vineyard by Ben following the second harvest. He has purchased a tool for harvesting the apples at the top of the trees. These apples were pressed and pasteurised into 49 bottles of apple juice. Ben has paid this invoice. A bottle was brought to the meeting for all present to taste. He will provide labels and sell them at his Christmas Craft Fayre on Sunday 6 December to try and recover the cost.

## 27 GREEN GYM

Booked for 24 February 2016, when 30 – 40 volunteers will clear the brambles from the pond and orchard areas and repair the fencing. A second session has been agreed by the Parish Council, but a date has not yet been set.

## 28 PLAN PRIORITIES

It was decided that until the results of the funding application are known, the next priority should be to sort out the Community Growing Area – design the location, think about suitable starter crops.

Action:

- 1) Martin and Ben will meet in the New Year to measure the site, provide a list of possible starter crops and costings for railway sleepers for the raised beds, compost, fruit cage, seeds, plants etc.
- 2) The clerk will confirm the balance of budget to start the tasks.

## 29 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 27 January 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

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Chairman

After the meeting the Chairman confirmed costs for the rotivator at £40 per day plus delivery and collection charge of £10. Martin suggests that two sessions will be required early next year, so it was agreed that:

**RECOMMENDATION: That up to a figure of £120 is provided from the existing budget to rotivate the Community Growing Area.**