



The notes from the meeting of the Open Spaces Project Group held in the Garden Room, All Saints Church, Gurnard on Wednesday 11 May 2016 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: Fuller and McKean

Community Representatives: Martin Bilson (Chair), Georgina Austin, Steve and Terry Benstead. Ellis and Trevor Gant, Dani Norbury.

57 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Jenny Schofield and Doreen Grant

58 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Fuller declared a Pecuniary Interest as an IW Councillor with an executive role for Open Spaces.

60 MEETING NOTES

The notes of the meeting held on 30 March 2016 were approved and signed by the chairman.

61 REVIEW OF THE ACTION PLAN

Councillor Fuller explained that the Parish Council have only funded the management fee to Gift to Nature for one year, rather than three to ensure it is "value for money".

62 FUNDING APPLICATION

Councillor McKean met with Elizabeth Hodgson from Groundworks regarding the Tesco "bags of help" funding opportunity. She was pleased to hear about the project – if successful the project would gain £8,000, £10,000 or £12,000, so the bid has to include expenses to meet all three criteria. The clerk provided a copy of the previous unsuccessful grant application, and quotations received for several of the items within the Action Plan. Martin has now set up a Facebook page for Cockleton Meadow which will promote the site and any activities.

63 MEETING WITH CAROL FLUX

Councillor Fuller and the Parish Clerk met with Carol Flux and Matthew Chatfield from Island 2000 Trust (Gift to Nature) on site on 11 May 2016 at 10am. Gift to Nature will now arrange to meet with Martin Bilson and formulate a plan of action. Discussion around having two plans (with and without the grant funding) took place. Matt and Carol suggested that a grant application to provide a water supply could be explored – this will be added to the Tesco application. Members are keen for Gift to Nature to assist with planning some events such as Pond Dipping, a summer picnic and an apple day.

Priorities for their input was agreed as:

- a) Assist in any funding applications.
- b) Provide direction to the group on conservation matters.

Several members are keen to be involved in the practical side of the project.

GURNARD PARISH COUNCIL

64 GREEN GYM VISIT

Another very successful day with the volunteers from Green Gym on Wednesday 4 May 2016, having been very lucky with the weather again. 30 packets of wild flower seeds were obtained free from the Growing Wild project – these have been scattered. The pipe providing drainage to the pond has been covered with turf to make it safer. The pond has been completely exposed and is looking lovely. Honeysuckle is growing on the fence and should provide both shade for the pond and cover for the fence. 4 small raised beds in the orchard have been cleared and dug over and some herb seeds scattered. There is space to raise some bedding flowers for the Gurnard in Bloom project.

Pictures of the day have been uploaded to the Facebook page.

Possible future visits by Green Gym were discussed for the Autumn this year or Spring next year. These will be actioned once the meeting with Gift to Nature has taken place.

65 PONDS

This item was held over from the last meeting. Gift to Nature can carry out the necessary Risk Assessment and provide advice re signage and removal of the fence. The walkway is a little wobbly and will need repairing before any fencing is removed.

66 NEXT STEPS

It was agreed:-

- a) As there is a planning variation for the pavement for the new houses being built on the old school site, a pedestrian access at that corner of the site is to be explored.
- b) Gift to Nature to be contacted about:-
 - (i) Risk Assessment and Signage for the Ponds.
 - (ii) Assistance with the funding application.
 - (iii) Providing events to promote the site
 - (iv) Martin and Carol to meet to discuss the future conservation issues, and if they should be invited to future meetings.
- c) The orchard still requires identification – Dani will assist with this via her college course.
- d) To plan an orchard pruning event in the Autumn lead by Dani.

67 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 6 June at 7pm in the All Saints Garden Room.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

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Chairman