

**The notes from the meeting of the Open Spaces Project Group held in the Garden Room, All Saints Church, Gurnard on Wednesday 24 February 2016 at 7.00pm.**

**PRESENT: Community Representatives:** Martin Bilson (Chair), Georgina Austin, Jenny Schofield, Carol McKerracher, Ben Cooke, Steve and Terry Benstead.

**41 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fuller and McKean, and Jeremy Murton.

**42 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**43 MEETING NOTES**

The notes of the meeting held on 27 January 2016 were approved and signed by the chairman.

**44 GREEN GYM**

Between 35 and 40 volunteers from the Green Gym (including 4 members of the working group) attended the site from 10am to 1 pm today and cleared the area around the pond and orchard. When the brambles were cleared from the pond area – three separate ponds were revealed and an unlocked gate. The new chain and padlock were used to replace the one on the main gate, which was cut off, and a new chain and padlock will be purchased to ensure that the third gate is also secure. In the orchard area, a lot of ivy was removed to allow the fruit trees to grow. A walnut tree with commemorative bench was also reclaimed from the weeds. Most of the cleared weeds and brambles were burnt on site. A disconnected water stand pipe was uncovered which can be removed, plus some small raised beds which might be suitable for growing herbs and two small compost bins. Removing the fencing from the pond area was discussed.

**ACTION:**

- 1) The clerk will contact Carol Flux at Natural Enterprise, who manage several ponds on the Isle of Wight which are unfenced, for advice regarding unprotected ponds.
- 2) The clerk will contact the Parish Council's insurers to establish the liability position if the ponds are not fenced and locked.

**45 PRIORITIES FOR THE SITE**

Members looked at the costings produced for various areas of the site, which is now being considered as four separate areas:-

- a) The orchard should now take care of itself although identifying the varieties still needs to be completed.
- b) The wild flower meadow should now take care of itself.
- c) The picnic area with mowed path needs funding, plus the installation and cost of emptying a dog/litter bin needs to be considered.
- d) The community growing area needs funding.

# GURNARD PARISH COUNCIL

It was agreed that the funding for the community growing area was priority at this time of which a possible growing area of 24 meters by 10 meters could be established.

That a shed and tools are not considered essential at this stage, but a source to collect water would be required.

Action:

- 1) Ben will talk to Matt Noyce the Estate Manage at Quarr Abbey for advice on the raised beds.
- 2) Steve will gain quotations for the wood.
- 3) Martin will obtain quotations for the compost.
- 4) The clerk will obtain prices of water butts.

## 46 REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

A sum of £3,000 was agreed by the Parish Council for grass and hedge cutting for 2015/16, which has been provided free of charge by Terry Butchers. So far a sum of £812.30 has been spent or set aside as agreed by the Parish Council. It was:

### RECOMMENDED:

- 1 That the balance of £2187.70 in the budget for 2015/16 is “ring fenced” by the Parish Council to spend on the project for the establishment of the Community Growing area.
- 2 That the £3,000 budget set aside for the 2016/17 budget for the project is not restricted for hedge and grass cutting but is provided for the project subject to the Parish Council’s usual Financial Regulations.

## 47 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 30 March 2016 at 7pm in the Garden Room, All Saints Church.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

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Chairman