

The notes of the Open Spaces Working Party meeting held at The Garden Room, All Saints Church, Gurnard on Wednesday 30 September 2015 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Fuller and McKean

Community Representatives: Martin Bilson (Chair), Georgina Austin, Jenny Schofield, Heather Westby

12 ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

Councillor Fuller wished to step down as full time chair but offered support to any willing candidate. Martin Bilson was nominated and elected with Councillor Fuller as Vice-chair.

13 APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence were received from Pat Abrook and Fred Caws who have both now resigned plus Ben Cooke, Carole Parker and Joyce Martin.

14 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Fuller declared an interest in that he is a paid member of the Isle of Wight Council and is now Executive member for Parks, Beaches and Open Spaces.

15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2015 were approved and signed by the chairman.

16 SITE VISIT AND APPLE HARVEST

Two Apple Harvests happened as the first one was abandoned due to the weather, and declared a site visit instead. Some members of the Green Gym were also present. The harvested apples were taken to the Gurnard Village Show and used for Apple Bobbing and then given away. Lots of interest in the project was raised by local people. Brenda Schofield and Heather Westby made a separate site visit to try and produce a plan of the orchard and start to identify the tree varieties. The metal name plaques were not visible. Mr. Payne has also offered his assistance with the plan. Apparently the pond was constructed from a sunken old plastic boat hull. Many materials were incorporated into the site to encourage wildlife such as slow worms under corrugated roofing panels. The pond area is secure, but very overgrown. It would be nice to re-instate this area.

The clerk advised that the local scout group wish to be involved in the project as they can gain many interest badges while carrying out a lot of community volunteering.

ACTION: That Heather and Jane hold another apple identification day on Thursday 15 October at 2pm and then the apples are taken to Deacon's nursery for confirmation. Any volunteers available on the day can complete another harvest. Any unwanted apples can be taken to Sharon Orchard for pressing into Apple Juice.

17 PLAN PRODUCED BY MARTIN BILSON

Following on from the last meeting the existing plan has been modified to incorporate the new ideas of a wild flower meadow, orchard, arboretum and community growing scheme without the play equipment. Picnic Tables and a parking area were also incorporated. Many of these ideas would cost very little but involve a lot of volunteer hours.

18 HEDGE TRIMMING

The Parish Council has been advised by the IW Council that Island Roads have issued a notice that requires the hedge to be cut where it overhangs the highway. The Parish Clerk is arranging for two quotations to be presented to the Parish Council meeting for decision and resolution.

GURNARD PARISH COUNCIL

19 PLAN PRIORITIES

Much discussion took place about an action plan. It was decided that the order of priority should be:

- a) Organise the next apple harvest and identification – 15 October 2015 at 2pm
- b) Martin and Paul to arrange a meeting with Island Roads about both pedestrian and vehicle access
- c) Paul will construct a sign for laminating so that the gate can be left open for Open Access
- d) Sue will arrange quotes for the necessary Hedge cutting as directed by Island Roads
- e) Martin will talk to Terry Butchers about cutting the grass
- f) Martin will arrange with the National Trust for the scattering of wild flower seeds
- g) Martin will organise a Tree Planting day having obtained free saplings from the CTV
- h) That clearance of the orchard and pond areas are carried out by the Green Gym starting in January 2016
- i) That costs are obtained for the possible installation of picnic tables, litter bin and a short mown path
- j) That costs are obtained for a possible parking area
- k) That costs are obtained for the necessary twice yearly cutting of the boundary hedge.

20 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

- a) **Decide which contractor will be used to cut the highway side of the boundary hedge**
- b) **That Green Gym are employed to clear the site to a maximum of £200.00**

21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 2 December 2015.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

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Chairman