

Minutes 24 January 2018 Chapel Green Management Committee

Members present: Carolyn Emblen (Chair), Mick Ladner, Angelia Ladner, Kong Golke, Mary Trinder, Alison Painter, Iokine Rodriguez, Jim Paine, Clare Billington

Parish Council: David Howie (Chair)

Apologies: Chris Sharpe, Sue Steel

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Carolyn re-capped the Minutes of the Last Meeting and brought Members up to speed on what had happened since then:

- the Members had a site visit and walk through the meadow to discuss issues
- during the site visit a decision was made to remove the inappropriately planted bulbs and to return to the 'owner'
- it was noted that cars parked on the gravel area (previously constructed for the library van to park) encroach onto the meadow and that this encroachment should be resisted if at all possible.
- to demarcate the gravel area from the meadow it was proposed that sleepers (being donated by Carolyn and Clive Emblen) should be laid down to replace the wooden posts which had rotted. Permission should be sort from the Parish Council to use the sleepers.

2. Sleepers

Carolyn had written to the Parish Council to ask permission to permanently place sleepers at the meadow site to demarcate the meadow from the gravel hard standing. This proposal was approved by the Parish Council at the PC Meeting on 8 January 2018. (There was a vigorous exchange of views at the PC Meeting concerning parking and the meadow in general. A resident of Chapel Street, had parked his commercial vehicle at the site over Christmas which had been vandalised.) Long wheel-based vehicles park and obscure the meadow.

It was decided that Members would meet on Sunday 28 January to locate the sleepers. Jim suggested that the sleepers be fixed in position so that no 'nudging' from parked cars could take place. Action: Jim to provide rebar steel rods to fix the sleepers. Kong to ask Duncan for drill equipment to make the holes in the sleepers.

3. Removal of Daffodils

An inappropriate planting of bulbs (inappropriate to the definition of a meadow) had taken place by a nearby resident in the autumn of 2017. It was agreed that the bulbs should be removed and given back to the planter. However, before that happens a definition of the meadow should be compiled. This would help the planter understand why the bulbs are inappropriate to a native wild meadow planting and also work as a

base line for any future meadow development. Action: Jim and Chris to develop the meadow definition which would then be approved by the Committee.

Clare suggested that the bulbs should be given back planted in pots so that the owner of the bulbs could then replant at leisure in his own garden. Also, it might be a more diplomatic move rather than just returning the bare rooted up-turned bulbs.

The official meadow definition should be published in the March Rocklander issue so that all interested parties could have access to the information. A list of important species should also be presented. This definition should also be added to the village website.

4. Sign for Meadow

It had been previously agreed that an information sign should be constructed. This would officially mark the meadow, provide information of interest for Rocklanders to enjoy and provide a pictorial display of species occurring. It was agreed that probably a printed sign would be more durable than a painted one. Angelia offered to put together a Photoshop design if appropriate material could be emailed to her. Action: Chris and others to provide pictures of species and wording that could be mocked up for approval by the Committee.

David suggested that the sign should also include text to indicate that the meadow is the property of the Parish Council.

5. Pond

David was interested to find out if the Committee wanted to also look after the pond. It was felt that the pond needed proper management which needed professional advice. David had asked James Harrold of Rocklands Meer for assistance who suggested that David contact Dr Sayer of UCL who is currently working on a Norfolk pond restoration project (website: "Norfolk Ponds Project"). Everyone agreed that this would be a good idea. Action: David to follow up with Dr Sayer and provide feedback to the Committee.

6. Any other business

Carolyn presented the idea of having a meadow celebratory picnic for Rocklanders this summer; a PR event to promote the meadow, bringing more villagers on board, especially the school children, was seen as a positive move. Something to be discussed at a future meeting.

Carolyn highlighted the Waitrose charity schemes for local community groups (the green coin system. Alison mentioned that Tesco's also has a similar system.

Clare proposed that perhaps the Meadow Committee could encourage development of further meadow land in the village. Already there are a number of properties where meadows exist or that are currently being developed. The more meadow land in the area will increase local biodiversity and linkages between species etc. Contacting these individuals, and putting together a Rockland meadow map could lead to

potential promotion activities as to the importance of meadows. This could lead to others being encouraged to develop a bit of meadow land in their own gardens. A narrative could be developed in the village which may lead to other possibilities to enhance the biodiversity of the area.

7. Date of next meeting

To be decided.