

Minutes 15 November 2017 Chapel Green Management Committee

Members present: Carolyn Emblen, Mick Ladner, Angelia Ladner, Chris Sharpe, Kong Golke, Danny Thurston, Mary Trinder, Iokine Rodriguez, Sue Steel, Jim Paine, Clare Billington

Apologies: Cath Jones, Alison Painter

Introduction

Chris Sharpe gave an overview of the history of Chapel Green (Chapel Street, Rocklands), emphasising the need for proper future management and maintenance of the Green as a wildflower meadow. Chris talked about the biodiversity and educational value of the meadow, after having monitored for some years the species found within it. He also outlined the basic management requirements of a wildflower meadow with the various cutting regimes and species management (seed collection, monitoring) etc.

After a ‘show of hands’ vote and a referendum both undertaken recently by Rocklands Parish Council there was a majority vote in the village towards keeping Chapel Green as a wildflower meadow, as opposed to the other option - a mown lawn area. Thus making sure that the biodiversity and educational value of the meadow was ‘set in stone’ for the foreseeable future.

Until now various volunteers have been looking after the meadow, most notably Chris Sharpe, Iokine Rodriguez, Kong Golke, Danny Thurston, Sue Steel’s family and the Bacon family. However, it was felt that more help should be secured, hence the development of the Chapel Green Management Committee.

Several volunteers have come together to form the official Management Committee to manage the meadow and therefore ensure the ongoing success of the site.

1. Chair

Carolyn Emblen kindly offered to Chair the Committee and Jim Paine seconded the motion. Clare Billington offered to become Clerk of the Committee seconded by Iokine Rodriguez. The above mentioned volunteers form the remainder of the Committee and have offered to undertake various activities when necessary. Jim Paine requested that Chris Sharpe should be nominated as Technical Advisor, seconded by Clare Billington.

2. Other Potential Volunteers

As well as the Committee Members other volunteers in the village namely, Cath Jones, the Neele family, Alison Painter, and others have offered their help.

4. Title of the Committee

Carolyn proposed ‘*Chapel Green Management Committee*’ (CGMC) as a suitable name for the Committee. All agreed. The Committee will effectively be a sub-committee of the Parish Council, so the Minutes should be presented to the

Council to sign off. That way other volunteers and the wider public who are not part of the CGMC could have access to the Minutes.

5. Promotion

All present agreed that it is essential to promote and emphasise the importance of the meadow. Several ideas were put forward:

Definition

Angelia Ladner thought it right to have a proper ‘definition’ of what constitutes a wildflower meadow. This was deemed important so that no confusion could arise in the future as to what should be included in the species composition of the meadow. It would also be very useful as an educational tool for the school children in the village. **Action:** Chris to put forward a concise definition.

The Rocklander

Carolyn suggested that a monthly slot in the Rocklander Magazine could be made available for the meadow, so that the village would be kept up to speed on ongoing activities and interest. All agreed. Chris offered to write an editorial for the Rocklander covering interesting aspects about the species and management of the meadow and the national importance of wildflower meadows. **Action:** Carolyn to contact the editor of The Rocklander to incorporate a paragraph about the establishment of the CGMC (20 November next month’s deadline).

Noticeboard

All agreed that there is a need for a display noticeboard to be erected on the Green to ‘advertise’ the meadow and its species composition. This could be a colourful, either printed or painted display, indicating the important species and history of the site. Funding and design to be discussed.

Fundraising

Carolyn brought up the importance of raising funds for the project for machinery and noticeboard etc. There are some monies available via the Parish Council but no one was aware of how much. The purchase of a robust mower was discussed. Sue offered the use of her old mower in the mean time. Kong suggested that a flier could be circulated around the village to ask for donations. The donations could then be managed via the Parish Council. To be discussed.

6. Previous Committee

Chris advised the Committee that prior to this new committee there were other Parish Council management activities for the meadow. David Howie (Chair, Parish Council) had indicated to Chris that documents existed of these previous management meetings. These documents could include an existing ‘Management Plan’. **Action:** Carolyn to contact David Howie to ask if these documents are available. If a previous management plan doesn’t exist then Chris will compile one.

7. Site Visit

Angelia, Chris and Carolyn all proposed that there should be a site visit, before the next and last cut of the year. This should be done with a Parish Council

member present. Iokine proposed that the other volunteers should also be informed of the date of the site visit. A site visit would ensure that all could be familiarised with the site in detail so that future decisions such as inappropriate species additions and management issues would be understood. A list of jobs could also then be discussed with proper knowledge and need. **Action:** Carolyn to contact Cath Jones (Parish Council) for a suitable date; Iokine to send list of other volunteers to Carolyn.

8. Car parking

Whilst it is regrettable that cars are parked immediately in front of the meadow (obscuring the access and view) and the land may or may not comprise part of the original extent of the meadow, it was felt that no practicable action could be taken to prevent this practice. Replacing/installing the logs that delimit the parking area will prevent car parking encroaching any further on to the meadow. A noticeboard explaining the meadow may also help reduce parking. Carolyn mentioned that she has some sleepers that could be used.

9. Date of next meeting

To be decided after the site visit.