

## Minutes 25 April 2018 Chapel Green Management Committee

Members present: Carolyn Emblen (Chair), Mick Ladner, Angelia Ladner, Kong Golke, Iokine Rodriguez, Jim Paine, Clare Billington, Sue Steel

Apologies: Alison Painter

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### 1. Sleepers

Sleepers have been put alongside the meadow to help prevent cars parking on the site. Carolyn thanked those who had helped put the sleepers in place. Mick pointed out that the reinforcement rods needed to be pushed in further as some were poking up, and perhaps stoppered with dowel.

### 2. Bulbs

Carolyn thanked all who had helped in removing some of the non native bulbous plants (mostly daffodils and snowdrops) which had been planted in the meadow amongst the native flora. It was acknowledged that there are more bulbs to be removed and it was agreed that those who could help would meet at the meadow on Wednesday 2 at 6.15 in the evening, weather depending, to remove the remaining bulbs.

### 3. Definition of Meadow

Carolyn thanked Jim and Chris for compiling the official meadow definition, which was published in the Rocklander and uploaded onto the Rocklands website under the heading 'Chapel Green'. The definition is important to emphasise the nature and biodiversity importance of the meadow and to act as a benchmark and reference for future management concerning the meadow's development and its evolution. The definition was based on '*Meadows*' (2013) by George Peterken, a highly respected ecologist, part of the chief Scientist's team in the Nature Conservancy Council.

It was also suggested by Mick that the definition, or other announcements to do with the meadow, could be added to Rocklands Nature and Environment Facebook page.

### 4. Waitrose Scheme – *Community Matters*

The committee agreed that it would be advantageous for the Chapel Green project to be part of the Waitrose Community Matters scheme (the green tokens that shoppers choose at the end of their shop at Waitrose). If successful there could be a donation of up to £300 that could go towards the project, which could be used in any number of ways, such as education, signage etc.

**ACTION:** Clare and Jim to put together the application emphasising the importance of the meadow as a community project.

### 5. Rocklands Meadow Map

Clare proposed that there may be a way to use the Chapel Green meadow to link to other meadow projects in the village, emphasising and encouraging the biodiversity value in the village. Already several villagers have their own meadow areas of varying sizes, and it was thought that maybe by linking the existing meadows in the

village and highlighting their importance would be one way of encouraging others to try – be it a tiny little patch in a garden or larger projects. One way would be to compile a map of meadows in the village, which could be used in the future for educational purposes (school children visiting) and other promotional purposes. Carolyn suggested that a poster or flier should be put up in the shop asking if anyone would be interested in this activity and to help celebrate and increase the biodiversity in the village.

**ACTION:** Carolyn and Iokine to draft flier

#### 6. Meadow Sign

Carolyn and Clive have very kindly agreed to donate (from Carolyn's logistics co.) a lockable sign for the meadow, possibly a permanent solution to a sign or an interim measure until a proper printed sign can be designed. This A2 board, with a transparent front, can then display notices and announcements. Iokine informed the committee that £90 had been donated by UEA to Rocklands as host to Iokine's recent student field trip to the village. The Parish Council had previously stipulated that the monies could be donated towards the meadow. Iokine thought that this money should be used to help pay for the A2 board.

It was also suggested by Mick and Angelia that half the 'box' be used for pictures of species of interest. Photographs could easily be printed on photographic A2 paper. They also very kindly agreed to make a stand for the A2 board.

**ACTION:** Mick to ask Chris for suitable photographs

#### 7. Plans for Meadow Picnic

At the previous meeting there was some discussion about hosting a picnic for interested parties at the meadow to help promote the meadow; this could coincide with the Norfolk Day Picnic on the 28<sup>th</sup> July. However, it was agreed that for this year an event would not be planned for a picnic but perhaps a 'jolly' could be organised around haymaking time, or a planned talk, perhaps from experts outside the village (i.e. Iokine's student working on bees, or the NWT) on another date. Iokine thought that it might be useful if Chris could do one of his regular nature walks in the village to include the meadow at its peak of beauty and productivity. Refreshments could perhaps be provided at the same time.

Sue offered to take photographs regularly, perhaps weekly, to put on the website or on the board, of interesting species.

**ACTION:** Jim to ask NWT whether the Trust would be interested in coming to give a talk on meadows in the village, or advise the committee further on management.

#### 8. Date of next meeting

To be decided.