

Minutes 25 September 2018 Chapel Green Management Committee (Sage Cottage)

Members present: Carolyn Emblen (Chair), Mick Ladner, Gella Ladner, Kong Golke, Clare Billington, Chris Sharpe, Mary Trinder

Apologies: Alison Painter, Jim Paine, Iokine Rodriguez

1. Minutes of the last meeting
Agreed and signed off

2. Matters arising from the last meeting:

Application to 'Community Matters' Waitrose:

Clare had returned the 'Community Matters' application form to Waitrose, Wymondham. If the application is successful then Rocklands Meadow could receive up to one third of a shared £1000 donation from Waitrose. The importance of meadow conservation and the connection of the Chapel Green Management Committee with Rocklands Parish Council was emphasised in the application, and the requirement of a robust mower for management of the meadow, and support for promotional materials.

Draft of a flier for linking meadows in Rocklands:

As a way of promoting the importance of meadows to our local biodiversity, and in the hope of encouraging others to appreciate meadow conservation, it was thought that a map indicating meadows that already exist in Rocklands would be a good start. Several villagers already manage their own sites. So it was agreed that a promotional flier should be composed to promote the idea of compiling a Rocklands Meadow Map, whereby willing villagers may wish to have their site marked on a map. Carolyn kindly put together a draft flier for comment. The intention is to put the agreed flier in the village shop and on notices/web to inform interested parties. Clare and Jim agreed to be the contact for the map.

Library van:

There was some discussion about trying to encourage the owners of the cars parking on the meadow to not do so on the Thursday that the library bus (once every 4 weeks) needs to use the parking area. It was reported that since the Parish Council Meeting there had been no difference in parking, and commercial vehicles are still parking on the site.

Meadow sign:

Carolyn thanked Mick and Gella for all their work on the meadow sign and reported that the sign was accepted favourably at the previous Parish Council Meeting. The sign will be placed in its final resting place once the sleepers bounding the meadow have been moved slightly (see below).

3. Arrange a date to move the sleepers as suggested by the Rocklands Parish Council

At the previous Parish Council meeting it was agreed that the sleepers needed to be moved slightly forward towards the road so that cars and vans parking at the meadow's hard standing don't overhang the meadow. It was agreed that the Committee should meet on Monday 15 at 3.30 to move the sleepers forward. It was thought that most cars would be off the hard standing during the working day and it would then be easier to move the sleepers. Carolyn agreed to put a flier on the cars a few nights before Monday 15 so that owners of the cars will have a chance to move their vehicles before the work commences.

It was agreed that the meadow sign would also be put in place at the same time and that the sign should be just inside the sleepers, in the meadow, to avoid the possibility of cars backing onto it.

4. Grass cutting – appeal for a mower?

The Committee still doesn't own its own mower to manage the meadow and so far has relied on Chris's mower to undertake the task. A more robust mower is needed and Carolyn asked at the previous Parish Council meeting for any donation – no one has come forward. Clare has applied for a mower via the Waitrose Community Matters proposal. Mary suggested putting a request in the Rocklander Magazine and Mick and Angelia offered to have a look on Freecycle and to put up an advert. Watch this space! (Since the meeting Clare and Jim have cut the meadow with their mower, but at least another 2 cuts will have to be made before November – weather dependent. Clare and Jim are willing to mow again when required.)

5. Planning for removal of bulbs in the spring

A note for the future, that more 'foreign' bulbs still need to be taken out in the spring.

6. Update on aggressive behaviour

After the last mow Chris ended up with more dog excrement in his garden. No one is sure who is the perpetrator! Carolyn reinforced the fact that if anyone is working on the meadow there should be at least two people supporting each other in case anti-social behaviour breaks out again.

7. Anything else

Mary asked if more mowing was needed. It was noted that mowing is necessary until the grass slows in growing. (Note, Clare and Jim have undertaken one cut since this meeting.) Carolyn thought it might be a good idea to ask landscapers if they had a mower the Committee could borrow.