

Chapel Green Management Committee Minutes 11 March 2021

Chris & Iokine, Mick & Gella, Jim & Clare, Sue, Mary, Carolyn & Ali

1. **Chapel Green pond restoration.** RPC has informed Sue Steel (and Carolyn?) that Norfolk County Council is to carry out the excavation work to restore the pond in August, probably in conjunction with Norfolk Ponds Project.
2. **Nomination as a County Wildlife Site.** We still do not know when RPC might consider proposing Chapel Green as a CWS.
3. **A report on CGMC activities** was presented at the most recent (Monday 8 March) RPC meeting (attached below). Each item was read out and discussed
4. **Expansion of permissive access on eastern edge of Chapel Green and dumping of gravel and spoil.** On 20 February, the residents of The Chapel resurfaced and expanded the permissive access track on the eastern edge of the green, gravelling over part of the north-eastern corner of the meadow to form a new turning area. Spoil was removed from the existing track and deliberately dumped along the eastern margin of the meadow. This was considered to be unsightly and will prevent mowing of the area covered. The incident was reported to RPC and the matter discussed at the most recent (Monday 8 March) meeting. As a result:-
 - 4.1. RPC will find out what agreement exists over permissive access on the eastern side of the green and will decide what should be done about the spoil desposited onto Chapel Green.
 - 4.2. The CGMC is keen to avoid confrontation with neighbours, but it was unanimously felt that gravel and spoil must be removed from the green for practical reasons and in order to avoid returning to the time when the green was used for dumping unwanted construction waste. CGMC therefore request that residents of The Chapel remove the spoil and gravel without delay. It was suggested that the material might be deposited it on the existing parking area on the southern edge of the green. CGMC would like the established area of the green to be clearly demarcated to prevent further gradual erosion of the community land. RPC plans to install sleepers along the eastern edge of the meadow. It is to be expected that they will be placed along the existing edge of the meadow not the newly enclosed area.
5. **Visits and outreach activities in 2021.** CGMC is keen to encourage villagers and non-locals alike to visit and enjoy the area. Given current uncertainties over the pandemic and government guidelines, it was agreed that any formal plan should be postponed until our next meeting.
6. Sue Steel is looking through **older issues of The Rocklander** for information concerning past management of Chapel Green. This information might be compiled in order to show the history of management of this area.

Thanks to Mick & Gella for hosting our first Zoom meeting

7. **Next meeting** 6 May 2021.

Chapel Green Management Committee report to Rocklands Parish Council for 8 March 2021 Parish Council meeting

CGMC meetings and activities

Over the autumn and winter months there has been little need for meetings or activities, but CGMC are now planning the first of our 2021 online meetings

Community outreach

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we were unable to carry out any of the community and school visits envisaged for 2020 or the first half of 2021. Despite that, Chapel Green did receive a number of Covid-19 compliant small group visits during 2020.

Rocklands parish meadow map

A map indicating the location of a dozen or so wildflower meadows, compiled by CGMC, has been submitted for publication in the March issue of *The Rocklander*. Some of these meadows, like Chapel Green, are public spaces, while others form part of gardens and other private land. In total they provide a small, but valuable network for wildflowers and pollinators.

Collaboration with Long Wood

Rachel Long of Long's Wood, Wrenningham has kindly offered to provide us with some hay bales from their own wildflower meadow in order to reseed Chapel Green with some of the local plants of very high conservation value that have been widely lost over South Norfolk in recent decades. One of the plants of most interest, which was once a regular feature of local grasslands, is the very local Sulphur Clover.

Much Ado About Mothing

The book *Much Ado About Mothing: A year intoxicated by Britain's rare and remarkable moths* by award-winning author James Lowen is scheduled for publication by Bloomsbury in May. The book includes a chapter celebrating the author's visit to Chapel Green, specifically focussing on the regionally important Ghost Moth lek, which he described as one of the most impressive spectacles of his entire year.

Spoil dumping on Chapel Green

In February, gravel and soil was dumped on the eastern margin of the meadow during widening and consolidation work undertaken on the adjacent permissive access. The incident was apparently reported to RPC. Unless removed, this will prevent cutting of the grass at that edge of the meadow.

Chapel Green Management Committee, 1 March 2021