

Climate Change Working Group
7pm on Monday 9th January 2023 – The Cannon Inn

Present: Gill Cameron Webb, Ted Swan, Geraldine Swan, Rosemary Walker, Chris Lea, Steve Filer, Maz Dufall and Brian Carpenter.

Apologies: Howard Hughes, Dave Ludlow, and Lindi Rich (East Devon AONB).

MINUTES

1. East Devon AONB Project – Webber's Meadow planting

On 17th December Ted, Chris, Howard and Gill planned the tree layout then refined it on 27th December to form a square orchard with pollination groups mixed.

Perri Hale delivered their order to Bowhayes and Howard bought all the stuff to Webber's Meadow on the day. The Rootgrow plant feed didn't arrive until after the tree planting was finished so Howard said Bowhayes will give the Parish Council a £38 refund. Later Howard suggested swapping it for AfterPlant feed, however the meeting decided the best way forward was to proceed with the refund especially as the AONB Claim Form had already been signed off.

It was perfect planting weather on 27th December and about 20 – 25 volunteers turned up so all the trees were planted within a couple of hours.

The two black poplars were planted in Webber's Meadow south field along with some red, yellow and orange willow tree cuttings donated by David; planted as per Howard's recommendation.

Many thanks go to Anita, Lorna and Makala who provided a feast of tea, coffee, sausage butties, burgers and cakes which were enjoyed by the hungry planters.

The ED AONB sent a photographer, Simon Tutty, who took lots of pictures of the orchard planting and Howard also took photos of the poplar/willow planting team. Gill will email out all the photos when they arrive.

Gill drafted an article for February's Parish Magazine which the team are happy to be submitted. Hopefully the photos will arrive in time for submission on 15th January.

Gill completed the Claim Form which was signed off by the Parish Council. She'll submit it with the invoices, again as soon as the photos are received.

Lindi has some trees left over from the school planting. Once we know how many and what sort we'll plan where they would be best planted.

2. Webber's Meadow flooding

The north field has been flooded for several weeks putting the Jubilee copse at risk of dying. We think the soil from the MUGA foundations which was put in the north field has blocked drainage 'depressions' which used to allow water to drain away.

Cllrs Walker and Carpenter to ask the Parish Council to get a contractor in to urgently reinstate the drainage depressions.

3. Memorial Trees

Parklife included Jean Salter's tree in their planting scheme for the old cemetery and Geraldine has let her family know that the planting date is 4th Feb.

The CCG would like to plant a commemorative tree for Val Ranger, ideally in Harpford churchyard. Ted will ask the churchwarden if this is possible.

4. DCC Tree planting

Keith Rennells from Parklife sent revised plans (e.g. replacing yew hedge with rowan trees and removing the goat willows) which were formally agreed by the Parish Council on 28th November.

Keith also sent dates for planting the DCC trees:

27th January – Sportsfield

1st Feb – new cemetery

4th Feb – old cemetery

15th Feb – Burrow Lane

Keith is hoping to speak to Howard about where to get the digestate mulch otherwise he'll bring wood chip mulch.

Geraldine got the okay from Wales & West Utilities to plant along the southern fence on the sportsfield but Keith is still waiting to get the formal okay from other service providers to plant rowans along Back Lane.

Gill was told that 3.4m is needed between trees to allow the lawn mower to get through.

If the sportsfield isn't completed on 27th January we should have time to finish it after one of the other dates, or some of the CCG members could finish it on the 28th Jan.

Brian offered to take photos on the 4th Feb and Geraldine offered to take photos on the other dates.

Getting Volunteers for Planting

CCG members can help with planting on:

27th January (Sportsfield) – Chris, Ted, Geraldine, Gill, Rosemary, Maz and Steve

1st Feb (new cemetery) - Geraldine, Gill and Rosemary

4th Feb (old cemetery) – Ted, Brian, Chris, Geraldine, Rosemary and Maz

15th Feb (Burrow Lane) - Ted, Geraldine, Gill and Rosemary,

- Rosemary will speak to Scala about how to get Duke of Edinburgh contacts;
- Ted will speak to the Rambling Club;
- Howard will speak to the Beavers.

New cemetery on 1st Feb:

- Rosemary has spoken to the allotment holders and will find out how many will help;
- Once we know how many allotment holders will help, Toby Taylor will decide how many RSPB volunteers he'll send.

Sportsfield on 27th Jan:

- Steve confirmed that the school will send a class of approx. 28 children;
- Bicton College have confirmed that their students will help plant the sportsfield; Gill is waiting to hear how many will come.

We'll need to be flexible as dates might have to be arranged in the event of bad weather.

Free Refreshments

Venue booking:

27th January (Sportsfield) – the Pavilion is booked;

1st Feb (new cemetery) – Lorna and Makala will use the Allotment facilities;

4th Feb (old cemetery) – the meeting agreed that volunteers will go over to the Community Café. Gill to check refreshments will still be free and to cancel the Village Hall booking;

15th Feb (Burrow Lane) – we'll think about the venue when we know if we're also finishing the Sportsfield on the same day.

5. Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) Free Tree Give-Away

Trees will be given away from 10am on Saturday 11th February on the sportsfield, next to the pavilion car park

Preparation

- Rosemary, Steve, Gill, Maz, Brian and Chris will get to site at 9.30am;
- Rosemary to show Ted how to open the gate's digi lock;
- Steve will bring a gazebo which we'll situate according to the weather;
- we'll use tables from the pavilion;
- Gill has plastic bags for people to take their trees home in;
- Brian will take photos of the day;
- One person will hand out DWT pledge cards out at the start of the queue;
- Geraldine offered to do posters about the trees (e.g. heights and distances from buildings);

- After all the following stuff has been delivered to Gill's house on Friday 10th February she'll call Rosemary if help is needed to sort it out:

- 250 cell grown trees of mixed UK broadleaf species (we expect these to be varieties such as hawthorne, field maple, cherry, crabapple and birch)
- Spiral guards and bamboo canes
- Planting and aftercare guides and other flyers
- Pledge cards

- A 'donation bucket' - this is for the completed pledge cards. We will accept donations to DWT too though
- Pens
- Mini buckets with labels
- Info on each tree species
- Pop up banner

6. Publicity for both the DCC Tree Planting and the Free Tree Give-Away

- For both events Gill put up posters and asked for them to be published on the village Facebook page and in both January and February's Parish Magazines;
- Gill sent the two posters to the CCG and Parish Council, to forward to other people who might be interested;
- Gill will also do a Sidmouth Herald article, for the 21/1/23 edition if possible

7. Parish Weedkiller Strategy

Gill to email the Parish Council and recommend that they stop the use of Weedkiller, especially near water courses and drains where it could easily leach into the water and kill wildlife.

8. Next Meeting

We'll have the next meeting on Monday 6th February 2023 (at 7pm on in the Cannon Inn) as this will allow us to re-plan the DCC tree planting dates if necessary.