

**Climate Change Working Group**  
**7pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – The Cannon Inn**

Present: Gill Cameron Webb, Ted Swan, Geraldine Swan and Chris Lea.

Apologies: Steve Filer, Howard Hughes, Rosemary Walker and Maz Dufall.

**MINUTES**

**1. Jubilee Copse**

Most of the Jubilee Copse seems to have survived the flooding, we'll see how it goes before deciding whether to move or replace any of the trees in the autumn.

**2. Watering Community Planted Trees**

The jubilee copse, jubilee birches, community orchard, black poplars and school trees all need to be watered by the community for the first couple of years.

After checking out other options it was decided to spread well-rotted woodchip around the trees to help with moisture retention.

An order was placed with Jurassic Trees as they gave the cheapest quote but unfortunately they couldn't deliver as their vehicle broke down. Gill has asked for a revised delivery date

The woodchip needs to be spread asap while the soil is wet from recent rain.

The only date/time when attendees were all available is Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April starting at 2pm so Gill will email that date out to see who else can help.

Noted that Dan Hanson has kindly agreed to water the two trees planted in Harpford near the village hall; the jubilee tree and Elaine Evans' memorial tree.

**3. DCC Emergency Tree Fund - Maintenance**

The trees and hedging planted by the ETF are looking healthy with most of them already showing leaves.

Keith Rennells (Parklife) hasn't yet called to arrange a date for monitoring the planting and to discuss on-going maintenance (e.g. watering) with the CCG.

Gill to contact Keith and ask for a date and then send it to the rest of the group.

**4. Val's Memorial Tree**

Harpford church say we can plant a tree in memory of Val (such as a prunus) and have marked the location with a white stake.

Ted found the cost will be in the region of £64 to £75, plus the cost of a tie and a plaque. (Gill has a spare stake and guard).

It was suggested that CCG members and Parish Councillors who knew Val might like to make a donation towards the tree (e.g. £5 each?).

Ted will let the churchwarden know that we would like to plant the tree.

#### 5. Chestnut Way Green

Apparently the ash trees in Chestnut Way green may be cut down in the future. If this happens the bird boxes need to be saved and relocated.

Also it's possible that the dead elms between Chestnut Way and the sportsfield may be cut down. However dead trees are very important to wildlife so the Parish Council will be asked to either leave the elms or only cut them in line with the rest of the overgrowth to retain the old wood.

6. Ted has hoed and spread wildflower seeds in the bare soil along the sportsfield's southern fence where weedkiller was previously used.

7. Ted will put a bird box up in St Luke's cemetery and will also ask if two bird boxes can be put in Harpford cemetery. Gill will ask Venn Ottery church warden if a bird box can be put up there as well.

#### 7. Left Over Freebies!

Gill still has some freebies left by the ED AONB

1 x standard beech tree – Gill to ask the Parish Clerk/East Devon if we can put this on Chestnut Green to eventually replace the Ash trees;

1 x standard alder tree – Gill to ask Parish Council if this can go near the poplars in the south field of Webber's Meadow;

2 x swallow/house martin boxes – Geraldine has found a home for these.

20 hedgehog fence markers – Gill will advertise these FoC in the Parish Magazine, first come first served.

No decisions have been made in finding homes for the additional whips:

- 30 x whips potted up last year by Venn Ottery – These could go in Badger Close green once the Parish Clerk finds out who owns the land, or possibly in the old cemetery;
- 100+ new whips offered by Howard – these can go to the allotment to grow on and put in their Devon hedge;
- 20 Hazel whips from Geraldine – these could be used to fill gaps in hedges, e.g. in the allotments or the sportsfield.

#### 8. Grass Bank in front of the higher School Lane houses

It was suggested that this grass bank be left uncut and that some wildflowers could be planted there.

### 8. Next Year's Projects

Five members of the CCG met in St Luke's churchyard to see how to make it more wildlife friendly whilst keeping the churchyard a nice place for residents to enjoy

Gill will send the attached proposals to the Parish Council for their discussion & agreement.

Other possible projects will be discussed at future meetings, such as:

- create a dog proof wildlife scrub area in Webber's meadow south;
- enhance the concrete area at the top of Glebelands;
- Wildlife cameras for educational purposes;
- Improve the paved area on School Lane between Turner Close and Glebelands without impeding children being able to play;
- find out what projects could attract grants (e.g. Wild about Devon is giving £500 and Ted has details of an AONB grant).

### 9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm on in the Cannon Inn.