

**Climate Change Working Group
7pm on Tuesday 18th October 2022 – The Cannon Inn**

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

Apologies: Steve Filer, Carla Bilenkyj, Maz Dufall, Howard Hughes and Lindi Rich (East Devon AONB).

MINUTES

1. Tree Planting

1.1. Geraldine to find out where Jean Salter's memorial tree will be planted in the new Venn Ottery cemetery so we can include it in the DCC Project planting scheme.

1.2. Gill and Rosemary planted a crab apple 'Evereste' for Elaine Evans in Harpford and sent her a photo, just awaiting the plaque now.

1.3. East Devon AONB Project:

We got three quotes for the Webber's Meadow trees and decided to compare the apple trees first so we could get them reserved.

After comparison we decided to go for the Perri Hale apple trees because:

- we decided not to buy trees in pots as bare rooted trees are easier to plant, will take better, are cheaper, will soon catch up and don't need so much staking;
- all the quotes for bare rooted trees were for 1 year maidens, so no difference there;
- on comparing the prices for 20 bare rooted trees we found that the Perri Hale trees were the cheapest at £310.50;
- we also liked that Perri Hale listed the types of apple trees they would provide, which included Devon varieties, so we knew what we would get.

We'll decide where to buy the stakes, ties, guards, etc. at the next meeting.

When we decide which other trees to buy at the next meeting we'll consider how many free trees we can get from the community and how many we can realistically plant and maintain.

Gill will complete the ED AONB grant application form once we've finally decided what trees and accessories we're buying.

Tom and Howard will take 2ft cuttings from the willow trees for Howard to grow on.

1.4. Devon County Council Project:

DCC have now awarded a contract for the DCC Emergency Tree Project to a company called Parklife.

The first meeting to discuss the project with Parklife starts at 10am on Weds 26th October in Harpford Hall.

1.5. Parish Council permissions:

Rosemary said the 17/10/22 finance meeting agreed in principle to fund the ED AONB project trees, so Gill will ask Perri Hale how we pay the 50% deposit to reserve the trees and ask the Clerk if she can arrange payment.

Gill is going to the 24th October Parish Council meeting to update them on the tree planting plans.

1.6. Planting the trees:

Once we've got tree planting dates from Parklife we'll advertise them to get volunteers.

1.7. Trees and wildflower seeds will be given away during National Tree week.

Gill to ask Lindi & Howard what date this will happen (likely to be early December) as arrangements need to be made.

2. Wildflower Meadow

Ted has raked up the risings after the wildflower meadow was cut, we'll use these to mulch the apple trees.

3. Bulbs

The Finance Committee allowed £60 which Ted used to buy more daffodil bulbs. These will be planted:

Chris - either side of the entrance to the new cemetery and in front of Newton Pop church

Rosemary & Brian - Burrow triangle, Burrow Green steep slope and end of Burrow Lane

Ted and Geraldine - Along the river by the sportsfield and either side of the jubilee tree in Harpford

Gill – grass areas near the roundabout and along Exmouth Road in the green areas

4. Parish Weedkiller Strategy

Weedkiller is being used by contractors (e.g. on the grass along the sportsfield fence). The meeting agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that they to stop contractors using weed killer in the parish, maybe strim instead?

5. Soil from the Muga Foundations

Ted to speak to Jacqui and let her know where the soil from the muga foundations should be deposited so he can use it for footpaths.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is at 7pm on Tues 22nd November at the Cannon Inn.

Appendix – the following were not discussed during the meeting.

1. East Devon AONB Nature Recovery Project

Unfortunately Lindi is off sick so we couldn't get an update on the following tasks.

AONB tasks:

- Lindi will talk to Beverley about installing wildlife cameras;
- Steve will arrange with Lindi, Beverley and Chris Lea to plan regeneration of the school pond, probably during Autumn half term;
- Lindi hasn't been able to talk to Kate Ponting about getting contacts with local farmers for possible tree planting and hedge repairs;
- Lindi has just been on river monitoring training and will now look towards monitoring pollution on the River Otter.

AONB Events

b. Next summer Lindi will arrange:

- a guided river walk via Harpford and Tipton late summer, Ted to decide the route;
- summer activities on the Pebblebed Heath, such as another bat walk or a moth or butterfly walk.

1.2. Howard can arrange for the Beavers to build bird and bat boxes if Lindi tells him how many she needs, and hopefully Lindi could do a talk to the beavers.

3. Reducing Carbon Footprint in the Parish

Unfortunately we didn't have time to talk about these tasks.

3.1. Our Place/Our Planet

To give people ideas on how to improve their own carbon footprint Maz did a Parish Magazine article which pointed people to the Our Place/Our Planet website and Gill did posters listing energy savings tips. Gill will send the same list to the October Parish Magazine and do a Facebook Post.

3.2. Carla will speak to Catherine Causley to see how EDDC could create a repository or pack of material that Parishes can pick up and use. It would be useful to at least know EDDC's objectives and whether there's funding (e.g. from the locality budget) to help people to become more environmentally savvy. C/F

3.3. Hopefully Catherine Causley can come to a future meeting to help arrange a Climate Change talk in the village to provide people with ideas on how they can make personal choices to help reduce their own carbon footprint. C/F

3.4. Carla to ask Catherine the result of her 'Plastic Reduction' challenge was. C/F

3.5. Gill didn't have time to re-circulate the carbon footprint links sent out previously (e.g Exmouth Council info) to see which bits could be useful for our parish.