**Climate Change Working Group**

**7pm on Tuesday 22ND November 2022 – The Cannon Inn**

Present: Gill Cameron Webb, Ted Swan, Geraldine Swan, Rosemary Walker, Chris Lea, Steve Filer, Maz Dufall, Dave Ludlow and Howard Hughes.

Apologies: Brian Carpenter and Lindi Rich (East Devon AONB).

Note - Carla Bilenkyj has sadly had to leave the CCG due to her new work schedule, however she would still like to be contacted for planting trees.

**MINUTES**

1. Tree Planting

1.1. The Parish Clerk advised that no private trees can be planted in Venn Ottery cemetery. Geraldine has let Jean Salter’s family know that her memorial tree can go in the old cemetery instead. Parklife will include it in the DCC planting scheme.

1.2 Tree Planting volunteers

There’s been lots of progress on getting tree planting volunteers, e.g.:

- Geraldine & Rosemary will speak to Duke of Edinburgh contacts;

- Ted has spoken to potential volunteers, including from the Rambling Club;

- Steve & Chris will speak to the school once dates have been proposed;

- Howard will speak to the Beavers;

- Toby Taylor’s RSPB volunteers will help to plant trees on weds or thurs;

- Bicton College students will also plant trees on a weekday during term time.

Ideally we’ll pair up the RSPB and Bicton volunteers (who can dig holes) with groups who can't (e.g. school children and Garden Club).

1.3 The group welcomed Anita Kemp’s offer to fund the refreshments and Lorna Dalton’s offer to arrange the catering for the tree planting events. Gill to book pavilion for the relevant days.

1.4. East Devon AONB Project – Webber’s Meadow

a. Gill completed the AONB grant form and the Parish Council accepted the ED AONB formal grant offer. Because of short deadlines Gill had to review the quotes and place orders, focussing on the most eco-friendly and cheapest items.

b. The Webber’s Meadow trees will be paid for by a grant of £514 from ED AONB and a donation of £120 from the Community Café.

c. The Webber’s Meadow tree planting will start at 10am on 27th December to capture families at a loose end over the Christmas break!. This gives us some leeway to rearrange in the event of bad weather.

There’s not a lot of time in December to have a meeting so we’ll arrange the following by email:

- Howard will speak to Perri Hale about collecting/delivering the trees;

- Howard will store the trees, posts, ties, etc until planting day;

- Gill will do posters and Facebook Posts to publicise the event;

- Gill, Howard, Ted and Chris will get together beforehand to mark out where the trees will go;

- David can provide some red, yellow and orange willow tree cuttings for Webber’s Meadow;

- we could also put some willow whips along Trevor’s fence to help dry out the land.

d. The orchard’s name was discussed and it was agreed to simply call it the ‘Community Orchard’ as so many people will have contributed to it. The Climate Change group organised it, the AONB and Community Café paid for it and volunteers will plant it. Rosemary will let the Community Café know that a plaque would be acceptable if an organisation wishes to pay for it and if it will acknowledge everyone’s contribution.

1.5. Devon County Council Project

a. A meeting was held between CCG members and Keith Rennels (Parklife) to discuss the DCC Emergency Tree project on Weds 26th October in Harpford Hall (see informal notes attached) followed by a site survey.

b. CCG members reviewed the proposed tree planting maps sent by Keith. Key comments were:

- no holly near the MUGA - Keith suggested they be replaced with a yew hedge. However the meeting agreed that there should be Rowan Trees instead as their berries aren’t poisonous and trees allow visibility of the MUGA;

- no leaves on the Tennis Courts – the goat willows have been removed from the plans as they’re too close to overhead wires, and the hedging will stop 25m from the tennis courts.

Keith will send Gill the revised plans on 23/11/22 for emailing to the Parish Council for their discussion, amendment and agreement at their 28th November meeting*.*

Parklife will provide us with some dates for planting the DCC trees.

c. Gill to ask the Parish Clerk what the width of the maintenance team’s lawn mower is so we can plant the sportsfield copse trees at a convenient distance.

d. There was some concern about digging up bodies in the old cemetery while planting trees so we walked around the cemetery with Brian Woodley who assured us that we won't accidentally dig up any graves.  This is because coffins/bodies will be buried at least 3 ½ ft deep, deeper than the trees will be planted. Ted staked each tree location to be well away from the old Victorian walls and from any visible graves and to avoid impacting neighbours views.

1.6. Free Tree Give-Away

As Lindi is still off sick the Free Tree Give-Away couldn’t be in December during National Tree week.

The CCG members agreed to have the Tree Give-Away on Saturday 11th February instead, starting 10am while the football and community café are on. Steve will provide a marquee which we’ll position next to the pavilion car park. Everyone who can help to put it in their diaries.

2. Bulbs

The £60 of King Alfred daffodil bulbs were 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 area along Exmouth Road.

3. Parish Weedkiller Strategy

Gill to email the Parish Council and recommend that they stop using Weedkiller, especially along Back Brook where it could easily leach into the water and kill wildlife.

4. Soil from the MUGA Foundations

Ted spoke to Jacqui Baldwin to arrange where the soil from the MUGA foundations should be deposited so he can use it for footpaths.

5. Next Meeting

The date of next meeting is 7pm on Monday 9th January 2023 in the Cannon Inn.

Appendix

Meeting with DCC on 26 October 2022 – Informal notes

Rosemary, Ted, Geraldine, Howard and I had a really good meeting with Keith Rennells (Parklife) today.

Here's some key points for you:

Parklife is a Not For Profit organisation which supports community volunteers

Their role will be to:

- design the tree/hedge planting

- find where to get the trees from and to buy them

- to make sure the trees come from a registered place to ensure their integrity

- make sure the right sort of trees are planted for each location

- provide the funds to buy the trees (they've got money from DCC, the Woodland Trust and the Queen's Green Canopy)

- provide contingency funds to replace any damaged/dead trees

- check everything (e.g. electricity cables, gas pipes, landowner permissions, etc)

- help us with promoting the project (e.g. advertising for people to help plant trees)

- turn up on planting days with some people and the tools

- maintain the trees for a number of years (I think they said 5 years). This will include watering and checking ties

Other notes:

- They suggested planting a commemorative tree and we suggested that it be for Val Ranger

- Keith mentioned that planting trees is really important to help with both the climate and bio-diversity crisis's

- planting trees is also really good for people in the community. We could ask:

* families and school children, maybe have community planting days?
* Toby Taylor's RSPB volunteers
* the Scouts and Beavers
* the politicians. Chris Burhop previously helped us with planting the copse but what about Simon Jupp, Paul Carter and Caleb Early!

We can update the Queen's Green Canopy website to show what tree's we've planted!

Apparently mulching is extremely important to keep reduce the need to water trees. Howard will pass details about 'digestate mulch' which he says is really good mixed into loam.

After the meeting we surveyed the Sportsfield, the old and new cemeteries and Burrow Green. We also showed Keith the generator station and asked if it might be possible to plant trees to screen it.

Keith is now going to draw up some plans to show what we discussed today, he's hoping to have them available to us in a week.