

Rodington Parish Council
Climate and Nature Strategy Group

Tues 10th January 2023

Present: Tom Hayek (Chair) Will Gratwick, Cllr Tom Currie

Apologies: Connor Furnival

1. Arising from previous meeting:

Membership of group, TH mentioned he's spoken with Sophia Vaughan-Hodgkinson (Head of Rodenhurst School) who is keenly interested and will join. Sue, who was involved at the visioning stage is also keen but will need to be invited.

Action for CF

Niki Paco, a Rodington resident has also expressed interest in the group.

DM was unable to attend this meeting but will in future where possible.

Action: Better publicity on Facebook and elsewhere to advertise the meetings (TH/ CF)

Action- TC will raise the possibility that TH could be included as author on RPC Facebook page.

2. Community Orchard

Information board – need to identify the total costs, vis around £750 (guestimate, based on SNCT Information board at Longdon on Tern (£600+).

Discussion around the content text of the above – WG produced a draft and shared this with TC over Christmas.

Action: WG to send a draft to TH for finalising.

Both the bench (quote of £580) and the information board may need securing in the ground (concrete?).

Action: TC will speak with a local builder on a gratis contribution.

On the fence at the end of the orchard, it's proposed that a gate is installed for public access.

Action: TH will obtain a quote (local source)

Bug Hotels -Would benefit from donations of wooden pallets (small x6) and air-bricks (x30)

Action: TC will approach Rodenhurst Businesses re above.

Bamboo to be sourced (TH)

School to do search for pine cones?

Slates – Church can donate these (TC)

Photos of wildlife for information board – TH will source

Logos will include TWC, RPC

Board/graphics – could be the same that did the SNCT board in Longdon on Tern.

Grass cutting regime – need to encourage the contractors to cut around the orchard in a sensitive way.

Action: To arrange an on-site meeting with the contractor – Nigel Murray. Probably best for CF to organise this?

School's involvement – Meeting with Sophia to consider ways in which the children would benefit from site visits and involvement in construction of things like the bug hotel etc.

Potential for other groups to visit, eg dementia groups, the ladies club etc.

Fruit trees – As a basis specification, peat free are preferred. Damsons (Shropshire and Merriweather)

Bog garden – Costings include a liner (2 x3 mtr) and an identified need to ensure the pond is topped up regularly in the dry periods

Action – TC will speak with Geoff Symonds about the prospect of this.

Setting some dates : Tree planting needs to be done soon, 25/2/23, alongside installation of the bench. See Gant chart on spreadsheet provided by TH.

Bug hotel should be in place prior to Spring so the 18/3 has been set to complete this in conjunction with the school.

Crocus planting – Currently awaiting pricing (CF)

'Grand launch' of the Community Orchard – It was agreed to do this on Good Friday, 8th April pm. Should involve Chair of RPC (to welcome) District Cllr (given community grant) and a brief explanation by TH.

3. Recycling Project

There are three potential categories where initiatives could be developed. Potential for recycling champions taking bundles to the recycling centres, vis Hortonwood.

Scope for tetra Pak material to be recycled, and there may be other items TWC would support.

Action: CF to explore options with TWC, given his contacts.

Potential to produce an article for the Village Voice on recycling and raising awareness about what can be done, vis batteries.

Alison (Ali) Thomas is a 'Zero-waste' champion and she could assist in our planning.

Action: TH will contact Ali

4. Hedge Planting

The main project is the potential planting programme on the recreation field, bordering the field owned by Ian Griffiths. Ideally, this would be best done by mid-March but it might interfere with the cropping cycle. Autumn/ November could be a better time to complete this work.

Action: TC will discuss with IG (landowner) and via CF with TWC.

5. Village Voice

It was agreed that the main item for the next edition should be on the Community Orchard.

Action: TH to complete article and liaise with CF.

6. Date of next meeting

Agreed to go for Monday, 13th Feb 2023 but this may have to change to accommodate others not at today's meeting.