

Rodington Parish Council
Climate and Nature Strategy Group

Tues 15th February 2023

Present: Tom Hayek (Chair), Cllr Tom Currie, Duncan Maiden, Kaye Twigger.

Apologies: Connor Furnival, Will Gratwick, Sue McGavin, David, Sophia Vaughan-Hodkinson, and Sue Brown.

1. Arising from previous meeting:

TH to contact Sue McGavin re schedule of meetings.

2. Community Orchard

Proposed working party on Sat 25th Feb 11am to plant fruit trees, build the bug hotel, dig out the bog garden and build log piles etc.

As far as is known the wooden bench is on order; this will be installed at a later date, and secured via concrete.

Action: Duncan will collect the Damson trees from Harley Nurseries on the 25/2.

Action: Watering of the bog garden – Tom C to speak with JS, Rosehaven.

Action: Liner specifications to be provided (Tom H) for Connor, and seek update on the delivery of the bench.

Tom H and Connor met recently with Nigel Murray, Parks and Open Spaces Mgr, Telford and Wrekin to identify the wildlife corridor (for special mowing regime in August) together with our intention to plant hedges the full length of the recreation field. Concrete posts will need to be excavated but TWC is able to dispose of them.

Further working day proposed for the 18th March to include: populating the bog garden, installing the bench, interpretation board and establishing meadow.

Actions: Tom H will do a session with Rodenhurst School – to liaise with Sophia. Potentially 8th and 22nd March?

Grand opening event – Good Friday, 7th April 10am start, proposed to invite District Cllr Jackie Seymour

Action: Connor to formally invite District Councillor.

3. Coronation Fund

An application has been made to Telford and Wrekin Council as the administrating body for this fund. Criteria reflects King Charles III long term passion for ecology and sustainability. On behalf of Rodington Village Hall, Tom C has made two applications, one to focus some resource on the Community Orchard, to provide funds for wild flowers (meadow) and additional fruit trees. A sum of £250 would be made available for this purpose. Also, some of the funding would be directed to the church yard, to improve its bio-diversity, already home to one of the largest colonies of Ivy Bees seen. This would provide a quiet space for contemplation or rest as it receives many walkers passing through the village (Shropshire Way). There will be a public event on the Bank Holiday, 8th May, at the Village Hall; with afternoon teas, and live music. We would want to present a video focusing on our Climate and Nature Plan, in order to reach members of the community, and invite them to wander to the Community Orchard to see the developments taking place.

Action: Tom C will keep the group appraised.

4. Hedgerows

Nigel Murray (see 2 above) has given authority to the group to plant a hedge, and remove the existing (unsightly) degrading wire mesh fence and concrete posts.

Action: Tom C to liaise with Ian Griffiths, landowner of the adjacent field – currently unavailable as he's in Australia.

Action: Tom H to contact Sarah from CPRE to see whether the hedgerow could be added to their winter 23/24 programme.

The Woodland Trust provide grants for hedge-planting, with a new funding round for applications, commencing Nov 2023 (Closing date for apps is August)

Mention of the event taking place on the 4th March at Drury Lane (landowner, Steve Bentley). CPRE sponsored.

Action: Information on the event to be shared with group.

5. Recycling

Actions c/fwd (for Connor)

Ali Thomas who is a champion of food not waste, and is the manager of Shrewsbury Food Hub is also a champion on recycling. She will be invited to a future meeting to involve the wider community.

6. Litter-pick - Action: Tom C will distribute dates once agreed.

7. Bespoke meadows/verges

The group identified the potential for certain areas, or strips of road-side verges that could be planted with wild-flowers and would act as 'community demonstrations' to identify what can be achieved.

Action: Tom H will speak with Nigel Murray re this.

Action: Tom H to recirculate the draft document produced on roadside verges.

8. Date of next meeting

14th March 7pm at Rodington Village Hall

There was a special vote of thanks and appreciation to Will Gratwick for all his contributions to the plan, strategy and the community orchard. Now living some distance from Rodington, he intends to maintain a watching brief and attend working party session. Thank you Will.