

Yealmpton Environment Group Meeting, Zoom, 20 January 2022, 19:00

Present: Charles, Jen, Kate, Sheila B

Apologies: Teresa, Jane, Tony, Sheila M, Gill, James, Dan, Stan

1. Actions from last meeting:

1.1 **Stan** and **Sheila** to explore Dropbox for contact details – **still to do**

1.2 **Kate** to update on Parklife proposals

Kate met Andrew Price today. ParkLife are based at Filham Park – they want us to come up with a plan. **Action:** to have a Zoom call with Stan, Dan and Kate plus anyone else who is interested.

1.3 **Kate** to progress getting an ecologist to speak to the PC (and/or the parishioners) about the climate change and biodiversity emergencies

Kate said the talk would focus on the biodiversity crisis and in particular rewilding public spaces and verges. Tom Whitlock (DCC ecologist) has agreed to give a talk. AONB are starting **Life on the Edge** to encourage small community groups in their conservation efforts - Adam Davidson of AONB has agreed to record a video presentation. 5 Parish Alliance are also interested in attending and promoting in their communities. YP Councillors and the public would be invited. Date TBD - possibly 3rd week in March.

1.4 **Sheila** to ask Cliff Tucker (again) about land ownership.- the land is owned by DCC

1.5 **Charles** will speak to Peter Brown and ParkLife about our verges project, towards how best to build community support, including a possible role for ParkLife advising upon planting elsewhere in the village.

Charles has joined Yealm Estuary to Moor and will represent the group to YEG. YEM came out of YCE funding to provide a corridor from the moor to the estuary, this involves 5 parishes (not to be confused with the 5 Parish Alliance). They are looking at finding a professional consultant to provide advice on sustainability to farmers, to help farmers apply for grants. YEM are conducting a survey of ash dieback and aim to replace 3 trees for each dead one. They are working with the Woodland Trust.

2. Sub-group reports (actions arising or items for discussion)

2.1 Rivers – (**this information was given by Charles on behalf of Tony**) Tony is working with RYWOG. They support a citizen's science initiative to sample river water. They are applying for monitoring equipment. Tony wants data from SW Water to analyse, he is working with Peter Brown to present an analysis to the 5 parishes

2.2 Wild flowers/verges - blue Heart Verges – agree revised mowing regime for 2022 (see attachment)

2.2.1 **Kate** discussed Ford Road - in November James scarified an area on the long verge at Ford Road and seeded it with Yellow Rattle and a native meadow seed mix. Blue Heart signs should be put up in March ahead of the first cut and the school headmaster has agreed for the school children to decorate them if time between now and then -there has been some vandalism with the blue heart signs and it is important to get people on board. There are staffing issues with the SHDC ground maintenance team which may cause difficulties in keeping to the schedule (Kate thinks that a private contractor would have been preferable

and hopes that an agreement can be made so that Parklife can take over next year). The long verge to be left but a local contractor hired to mow the edges between SHDC cuts . Tier 2 mowed 5 times a year the same as last year. The timetable should be used plus a cut in early March to shorten the grass to allow flowers to come through, subject to SHDC availability.

2.2.2 Torr Bridge Park – trees on order due early February – volunteers needed to help plant the trees. In response to the petition, the grass will be cut as Tier 1 with the possible exception of wildflower circles under 2 of the trees.

2.3 Footpaths – **Sheila** is continuing with the footpath claim through the former Shire Horse Centre fields.

2.4 Trees – **Stan reported (by email)** - that he had spoken with Michael Bastard last week and hopes to meet him in the very near future to discuss possible locations for new tree planting close to the village.

The trees from the Woodland Trust should arrive sometime after the end of February and it would be good to have locations agreed and prepared so that the planting can take place promptly. Stan will follow up after he has spoken with Mr Bastard.

2.5 Comms – no report

2.6 Carbon – **Teresa communicated by email** - good news to report is that Sheila Melot has started the baseline carbon foot printing for the parish (attached to these minutes) which is a good start. I am going to try and make some graphs with the data to make it easier to digest and hope to send that around sometime soon.

3. YEM Mapping workshop – see 1.5
4. 5 Parish Alliance – Kate attended a meeting recently
5. Carbon plan for YEG – see 2.6
6. Tree planting – sites next meeting
7. Environmental Action Plan – progress and priorities for 2022 (see attachment)
8. Volunteer register – Dropbox
9. AOB - Sheila raised the point that we are booking the Community Room for meetings but we are often cancelling meetings or holding them on Zoom, this prevents other groups from booking the Community Room.

Dates for next 6 meetings

17 February / 17 March / 21 April / 19 May / 16 June /21 July