

Parkend Community Project – York Lodge Fields

Minutes of Meeting held at Parkend Baptist Chapel 29-06-22 @6.30pm

Present

Elaine Highfield, Laura Schroeder, Lisa Longmore, Nikki Rudge, Tamsin Sager, Ann Harris, Julia Caley, James Couldry, Nicky and Dave Horrocks, Dave Preest, Ian, Emma Bligh, Mark George

Apologies Alan Grant, Pete Sharrard-Smith, Ann Linden

Brief Introduction by Elaine

WDPC Summer Grant application for fencing has been successful in getting the full £2703.29 requested.

Wildflower walk through York Lodge fields and the opportunity to see the entire site Sat 2th July 10.30am

Site Management Plan update by Ann Harris – background in Nature Conservation

Ann has liaised with RSPB, Wildlife Trust, Plant Life, Dean Meadows Group, Bat Conservation

She has made a Species list, researched the soils and geology. The Hughes Terrace residents requested consideration of the old coal mines (Barrow?) which are known to exist on the site (some areas of slumping of the soil are probably associated with these) Concerns were expressed by some residents that any disturbance of the site could increase water drain off on to Hughes Terrace (already an issue during periods of heavy rain)

Tamsin will investigate the locations/ risks associated with the Barrow Mines further with Forestry England Deputy Gaveler Dan Howells.

Discussion of Constitution

Memorial Hall have accepted the grant allocated for the fencing on our behalf and the money can be released when we are ready to begin the project

Discussion then took place regarding the status of the Parkend Growing Project, because of the links to WDPC (who hold the licence and will give us Public Liability Insurance) it was felt that the project would work best as a Community Interest Company, (CIC) rather than a Charity.

Elaine will propose to WDPC that they hold a sub account of funds for us (contact Alan Grant and Kim) Also check if WDPC act as Treasurer for Scarr Bandstand.

Elaine thanked Pete Sherrard-Smith for producing the draft constitution, especially as he had been unwell. The constitution will need looking at further at the next meeting.

Tamsin explained Forestry England also hold the licence on the land and this licence will require that

- 1 We keep the land tidy
- 2 We replace fencing when needed
- 3 We need Forestry England permission for eg parking

If possible we will ask the Worcester Walk project if we can see their Forestry licence - **Tamsin to ask**

We also need to talk to Magda and Mike about possibility of parking on the track to York Lodge

The residents of Hughes Terrace then reiterated their concerns about any additional parking that the project could generate and which would impact on their already inadequate domestic parking

provision. **One possible solution was some parking is made available inside the field just through the gate next to the cattle grid which would avoid using the York Lodge track.**

Ann H then explained that having surveyed the site there is already open public access to the land and there are 2 existing access gates which are dilapidated and require improvement but could be reinstated – one on the top field leading to Nagshead Nature Reserve and one on the bottom field leading towards Hughes Terrace.

She asked if anyone was willing to undertake a review of the existing access gates and Tamsin suggested that Our Shared Forest might be able to fund replacement gates. The issues concerning additional parking from this project continued to dominate the meeting and EH then suggested that the Forestry could possibly allocate one parking permit to be displayed per household to the residents of Hughes Terrace (each of the house deeds of Hughes Terrace state one parking space) which could act as a deterrent to any additional cars possibly generated by the project. A sign could then be displayed e.g. No Through Rd - Resident parking permit only.

Ann H explained that she and Julia had visited the Dean Meadows group at their Flaxley site and Chris Parsons had offered to bring his scarifier type machine in August to clear an area of ground in the York Lodge Fields where indigenous wildflower seed from the Flaxley site could then be scattered. For this he would ask for a donation of £150 to charity. Elaine suggested we give the go ahead and will organise a book sale to fund it.

The new fencing of the site will take place at the end of September when all the nesting birds have fledged and Trevor will undertake this.

Ann H has also kindly written a letter to Forestry England, cc WDPC (Tamsin requested a slight change in wording to paragraph 3) She asked if anyone present would be willing to send the letter on behalf of Parkend residents? Tamsin will follow it up

With the need to get thr immediate residents happy with the project it was decided that we only focus on the Wildflower Meadow and Orchard provision for the time being, therefore all reference to the community growing garden will be on hold for the foreseeable future. Elaine mentioned that Yorkley Community Garden behind Yorkley Health Centre has started work and it would be useful to see how this project progresses.

AOB

Our Forest Future will be holding a meeting at Whitemead on Saturday 2nd July - all welcome to attend.

York Lodge Field site visit planned for Sat 2nd July 10.30am guided by Ann H

Meeting closed approx. 7.50pm and date of next meeting to be confirmed

Many thanks to Nikki for taking these comprehensive notes

FUTURE EVENTS

Friday 29th July 6 – 7pm ACCESS WALK (York Lodge Fields) to look at gate locations and how they would link with pathway through grasses etc. Meet near International Timber entrance. All welcome. More details to follow.

BOOKSALE FUNDRAISER for Chris Parsons scarifying a section of meadow to receive wildflower donation seed (charity donation of his choice). Do you think a Saturday or Sunday in late July or August would be best. Please contact Elaine 01594 563479 or email elaine.highfield@zeusweb.com if you are able to help and which date/time you are available or think would be the most suitable.

The hall is free other than Bank holiday weekend. These are really popular in the village so an easy way to make the money + teas and homemade cakes.

DRAFT