



BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to the Council, 5 Foreland Road, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, PO35 5XN

Tel: 01983 874160 Email: bembridgepc@btconnect.com



Minutes of Bembridge Village Partnership Green Town Steering Group held on **18th February 2015 4.00** Parish Office, 5 Foreland Road, Bembridge

PRESENT: Cllr A Lee, Mrs S Weedall, Mrs B Clough, Mr J Leaver and Mrs E Goldring Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence. No apologies, all present.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

To receive for approval minutes of the Green Town Steering Group meeting held on 7th January 2015.

RESOLVED: Approve the minutes of the Green Town Steering Group meeting held on 7th January 2015. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. EAST WIGHT LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Palmer Memorial Restoration - Peter Fellow has asked if the project can be developed more 'involving both Bembridge Heritage and the local school would be fantastic. What would perhaps strengthen the project yet further would be to ensure the school has a more active, rather than passive role in the work. I believe that exploration and understanding of the local area forms part of Key Stage 1 and it might be in this context that we could perhaps link the school with the project? Perhaps the Council knows a teacher who might champion the project within the school? Perhaps this project might also interest some of the local shopkeepers?'

Need to present the school something to deliver. There may be a lot of information that comes out of research conducted by BHS. Information boards in the Parish Office and Library plus production of a pamphlet would be nice.

Can the area surround the memorial be made to look more aesthetically pleasing? EWLP needs to demonstrate to HLF that part or match funding is available. Would the Parish Council contribute £1000 towards the Caulkhead Heroes project fund?

ACTION: Update the Palmer Memorial Restoration project plan and resubmit by end February. Seek contribution from Parish Council or Village Partnership.

EWLP is looking to deliver four priorities being Conservation, Participation, Learning and Access and Skills and Training. Looking to scale back the board to 7-8 members' 2 of which are representatives of Parish & Town Councils appointed through IWALC. Others involved are numerous landowners, RSPB, Wildlife Trust, Natural Enterprise and IW Ramblers. In Nov 2014 EWLP secured round 1 funding of £1.6 million to develop the project over the next 5 years. Needs to be matched by cash contributions and voluntary and in kind contributions. A spread of partners are match funding. Environment Agency £100,000 over 4 years, £30,000 from IWC Rights of Way delivering their implementation plan, Wildlife Trust £70,000 of a legacy fund. Parishes to make small contributions. Round 2 will be known in May 2015 which is a non-competitive bidding. As long as all of the criteria are matched there shouldn't be a problem in gaining the funding.

Restoration works on the River Yar next step is to work with the landowners. Working with the Forestry Commission to develop woodland management plans for Firestone Copse, Briddlesford plus the meadows and water courses in between. Encourage landowners to take archaeological interest in their land. Natural History and Archaeological Society to record what's on their door step fauna and flora plus encourage younger participants. New Carnival Company events to celebrate the landscape.

Next step is to draft the Landscape Conservation Action Plan to be developed covering all 17 parts of the project. To be handed back to HLF mid-May with a decision expected in September. If successful allow works to commence late autumn. Risks going forward are IWC going to remain to being committed to the 5 years project as the accountable body. At the present time they say they are. In terms of consultation EWLP requires comments on the Landscape Character Appraisal which will be circulated.

Project to improve access bottom of Quay Lane Brading across the marshes up to Bembridge Windmill. IWC Rights of Way are drafting a specification of works for this project. Not secured agreement from all landowners; Summerhayes outstanding. Need to widen the access and cut back the blackthorn. Areas need resurfacing due to poor ground conditions. New gates needed and removal of old styles. Works will probably take place next year. Happy to co-ordinate volunteers to assist with clearing and the Parish Lengthsmen have experience with resurfacing.

Not a lot of the projects are capital works. Ongoing works and maintenance needs to be included in project plans. Annual clearing events could be organised for the Windmills across Brading marshes to Quay Lane route.

4. GRANTS

To note results of the Grow Wild grant application – unsuccessful
Feedback for improvements received and encouraged to resubmit the application when the next round of funding opens in August.

To discuss Local Sustainable transport fund 2.

Brading – St Helens off road route no longer included. The LSTF2 is more vague in its provision. Keen that this priority was not lost. Encouraged that it has been picked up by EWLP.

5. WAR MEMORIAL GARDENS

To discuss removal of flax from the war memorial garden
Agreed to remove the flax from the war memorial garden. Will require a mechanical digger to remove the 4 large flax in 2 beds. Hard to prune and dispose of as they cannot be shredded. Not to replanted elsewhere as it would be moving the problem. May need to re-turf or reseed the grass. Lengthsmen could remove them w/c 16th March. Need to consult with Bembridge weeders about what could be replanted. Seek funding from the Village Partnership. Ideal time to carry out in March. Spike is removing the plum tree and limb first week in April. Judging of best kept village takes place in May.

6. LITTER PICK

To agree Spring Litter Pick for Saturday 18th April
Spring Litter pick agree for Saturday 18th April to commence 10.00am at Steyne Park. Include the advertisement on the TV at Lane End Welcome Store. BASHA beach clean is on 28th March and 18th July.

7. RIGHTS OF WAY

To discuss the Rights of Way improvement plan 2016-2024

The current rights of way improvement plan is an aspirational document. ROW has to draft them to comply with legislation. Sheila Weedall representing the British Horse Society spent hours compiling improvement suggestions and not one of them has been completed. Submit the priorities listed in the Neighbourhood Plan for the Brading-St Helens off road route, refuge paths for Sandown Rd and the upper High St.

8. HARBOUR

To discuss ragwort

Ragwort on land owned by Malcolm Thorpe was discussed. Approach Malcolm to ask if he is happy that it is removed? Approach the Green Gym to see if they are able to assist. Check if a license is required for burning on site or removal. All would need to be hand pulled. The tip take ragwort but it must be in bin liners. The site is too vast to put all in bin liners.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Invite Chris Wood to the next meeting for a presentation on dark skies initiative.

A newsletter would be drafted to coincide with the monthly e-newsletter and be circulated to the list of volunteers who signed up at the street fair stall. Include Footprint trust web link, outcome of Grow Wild gran, Dark Skies, removal of flax, EWLP and the litter pick.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 16th February 2015 4.00pm in the Parish Office, 5 Foreland Road, Bembridge.

Signed: Dated:.....