

Minutes of the PCEG meeting Monday June 7th 2021

1. Present and Apologies: Henry Clark, Sally Jackson, Anne Tuley and David Hankins present. Apologies Emma Crowson.
2. Logo/Branding and Communications. Update on newsletter, signage and Facebook.
 - SJ to send the newsletter to HC and Angela Hankins to arrange it sent out door to door, via Mailchimp and put on the website. A link to our website page is being added to PCC website.
 - Some discussion was had about the Logo. It was suggested putting both on the Newsletter and asking which one was the favourite.
 - The Facebook group page seems to be quite popular with 93 members. It started in Jan 2020 and is a private group, with membership having to be confirmed by one of the three administrators before use.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1010235282680215>
 - Peterborough City Council will be adding a link to our page on the Peakirk Village website, under the heading
Get involved in your local Parish Carbon Action Plan
 - Some parish councils in the Peterborough area have declared a climate emergency and committed to take positive action to reduce carbon emissions in their operations as a parish council, and in the wider local area.
 - Below are links to parish websites, where you can find more information on their Carbon Action Plans, objectives and projects in relation to climate change, as well as details of how to get involved.
3. Ongoing Projects
 - 3a Community Orchard
 - Following our meeting with Tony Cook from PECT, the allotment was divided in half.
 - David, Neil and Sally met on May 28th to work on the half with compost heap to level it down and remove large tufts of grass.
 - The cornfield seeds were sown on DH allotment.
 - The second half had the turf cut by Neil, the Borage was left. Tony Cook to be asked to flail and strip turf from 2nd half in Autumn.
 - Espaliers and step over apple trees were suggested to delineate extent of site, but it was agreed these would need too much maintenance and should be disregarded.
 - Advice was sought on purchase of trees from Stamford Orchard Association. Neil has sent the measurements and HC to draw up a rough plan.
 - David has cleared out most of the rubbish from hedge adjacent to expose existing apple trees.
 - It was agreed to retain any self-sown plants, like Borage or horseradish that might be useful.
 - A Chamomile/Thyme lawn was suggested for understorey planting.
 - Ongoing maintenance will be difficult to ensure with existing volunteers. More help is needed if we are going to be successful.
 - 3b Village Hall Car Park
 - 11 Volunteers are growing on seeds into plugs for all 3 areas. Sally and David to sow the remaining 4 packets, ready for Autumn planting out.

- Should the area be marked out on a more permanent basis?
- Ongoing maintenance will be difficult to ensure with existing volunteers. More help is needed if we are going to be successful

3c. Millennium Corner

- The live electric cable has been buried deeper by the supplier. It is live, connects to the street lights, but is armoured covered, so safe to plant near.
- DH and SAJ have sown poppy seeds.
- Remaining seeds being grown on by volunteers.
- It is proving too difficult to arrange a planting day at the moment, the weather is too hot and dry for success.
- A list of plants requested is in the Newsletter and these can be put in place in the Autumn, along with the seed plugs. This could be done on the Thank You to Nature Weekend organised by JCC.
- Ongoing maintenance will be difficult to ensure with existing volunteers. More help is needed if we are going to be successful

3d. Firdale Close

- The area looks good and no complaints have been received so far.
- A survey to be carried out during the Summer of existing plants.
- PCEG to cut in mid-September with arisings removed.

4 John Clare Countryside

4a. Road Verge Group –

- Next meeting on site 10am 15th June Bainton for training in survey methods. All welcome to attend

4b. Access and Health

- Next meeting 24th June 10am. Looking at encouraging and facilitating easy access into the countryside for all. Is there a future role for the Local Access Forum? What funding is available?
- SJ gave an update on Future Parks network meeting. Anybody interested welcome to attend.
- <https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/projects/future-parks-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough-accelerator-project/>
- Darren Sharpe to set up PCC portal to map routes.
- Update info on Slowways and All Trails maps to join up existing PCC Public Footpaths.
- SAJ to contact running clubs, cycling clubs walking groups etc.

4c. NE Cluster Working.

- No more meetings to date.
- Glinton roundabout progressing well. We gave them help with the signage.
- Northborough are getting help through PECT.
- DG is working with the Welland Rivers Trust to build an Otter Holt on the banks of the Welland.

5. Meeting with Emma Naylor from PCC on 12th May. SJ and AT present.

- Action Plan update discussed. No PCC resources to facilitate but they are keen to support us.
- Questions around age of our housing stock and its carbon emissions, could a Questionnaire be an appropriate way forward?

- CHEESE project, based in Bristol has innovative idea called the Energy Tracer survey system. Emma N to consider involvement with PECT to look at a franchise arrangement. <https://cheeseproject.co.uk/>
 - Link from the PCEG webpage to PCC website to be arranged under the heading What You Can Do. Date for next meeting to be arranged in June. All welcome.
6. Beautiful Burial Grounds workshop in St Pegas Churchyard 24th June.
- Led by Sarah Lambert, who will be explaining how to spot, identify and record wildflowers.
 - People already booked DH, SAJ, Penny Gall, 3 more from Peakirk and 2 from Etton Church. Max 12.
7. Proposed policy to be discussed at the next PC meeting on a Weed Management Policy preventing the use of glyphosate herbicides in the parish.
- SJ to send a suggestion and further information and contact PCC to ask for their policy details. Alternatives must be affordable and realistic.
 - https://www.ecowatch.com/glyphosate-sales-health-epa-ban-2653139382.html?fbclid=IwAR1RadKyvdcMvKLYm3L72hG6_ZRMz3Up7HWHgOKHxfUomtAz9E22uqWiYrA
8. AOB
- We agreed that the key to successful outcomes for our projects is ongoing future maintenance arrangements. We all agreed that we do not have capacity within our group to carry this out on a regular basis and asked the PC to consider taking out a contract with a suitable company to carry out sympathetic maintenance on a fixed price basis. This would probably be about 2 hours per week during the growing season. SJ to consult Tony Cook at PECT and Richard Astle to ask for ideas on how other parishes have dealt with this issue.
 - DH had carried out some remedial work on removing the weeds from Measure's Wall. Help needed to complete the task.
 - AT reported that she had attended a meeting with Sophie Flux of the Bredfield Wildlife Friendly Village Group, which was very interesting. They have a community Orchard and Jubilee Meadow and were impressed with the variety of projects we are undertaking. Contact Anne for more details.
<https://www.facebook.com/BredfieldWFV>
<http://bredfield.onesuffolk.net/our-village/jubilee-meadow-and-orchard/>
9. Next meeting Monday 5th July at 7.30pm