

SHIPTON WILDFLOWER WOODS

Meeting 17th January 2023 7.00pm held at Sidings Hotel, Shipton

Present:

Alwyn Craven
Branwen Farbrother
John Farbrother
Melanie Forster
John Heartshorne
Ruth King
Stephen Reynolds
Kate Rigg
Adrian Salton

The chairman welcomed attendees and briefed the committee that our partners in the project, The Woodland Trust were fully aware of the ongoing investigation of the site and are committed to the scheme.

Minutes of the last meeting 08/12/22 approved.

Discuss Discovery of Field Drain Layout

The field drain layout has now been discovered and a map overlaid with the drain layout was presented to the committee for review. A lengthy discussion followed. Experience demonstrates the drains are not working well as there is frequent flooding of the site and the football pitch. There is a main drain at a depth of approximately 1.0m falling to 1.2m at the silt trap end. Connected to the main drain are lateral drains understood to be circa 2" diameter. The Chairman reported the laterals had been checked and found to be heavily silted and not working as intended. It was reported the drainage engineer said the football field could easily have new drains installed back to the silt trap to improve it in the future.

Discussion of Forest of Flowers Deep Soil Inversion

Effects of deep inversion and expected outcomes were discussed at length. The committee agreed to look at the football pitch drainage in the future if there was

worse flooding due to any land drains damaged caused by preparing the field for the wildflower woods. The football pitch is not currently well drained. Alwyn C suggested deep soil inversion would improve the prospects for trees and should improve draught resistance. After exhaustive discussion the Chairman proposed the committee approve the Forest of Flowers technique (deep soil inversion). Seconded Ruth K. Unanimous in favour. **Resolved.**

Progress on Planting Matrix

Planting matrix drawings reviewed and considered. Wildflower seed sowing and rate discussed and views of Alwyn C considered. Alwyn initially suggested planting a wildflower/grass seed mixture to be sown on the whole site (circa 3 acres) at a rate of 3 grams per square meter to produce a natural wildflower meadow in due course. Seed mix and desirability of wildflowers local to our area discussed. Estimated cost of seeds £200 per kilogram. Initial calculations were done. At 2 grams/square metre cost expected to be circa £5,144. Alwyn C said 2 grams per square meter would work. Seed mix to be discussed at future meeting of subcommittee.

Pond development discussed. No plans for a pond at the moment. John H suggested a wait and see approach to how ponds naturally develop and to plot/mark existing wet areas using stakes to identify wet areas. Discussed marking out current wet puddles, John F suggested what3words, Alwyn C used GPS, Adrian S has GPS access. System method **TBC.**

Working party (to be formed) to create a grid to assist seed planting. Suggested 13th February 2023 (school half term) to involve school students. **TBC.**

Any Other Business

Kate R updated committee on website design, maintenance, web domain availability at a fee of £5/mth. To include homepage, about, history, events, plans, donate page, connection to social media, committee page (password protected), online fundraising. **Agreed.**

Melanie F to set up social media, Facebook and Instagram. **Agreed.**

John H queried if crowd funding allowed for Parish Council organisations (SWW subcommittee of Parish Council). **John H to investigate?**

Seed supply was discussed and seed selection/supply delegated to subcommittee (membership **TBC**).

Alwyn C suggested seed re-sowing might not be required and would assist seed harvesting August/September.

Future visits and websites of interest discussed John F agreed to email links to committee.

Resources/Information

www.longlandscommon.org near Harrogate

www.makeitwild.co.uk multiple locations

www.woodmeadowtrust.org.uk Three Haggas Woodmeadow

Next meeting to be held at Millstone Court Yard **7th March**.

Subcommittee (seed selection) meeting **TBC**.