

Hurst Meadows Working Group Meeting Notes

7th November 2024

Attendees:

Cllr Malcolm Llewellyn (ML), Cllr Claire Majsai (CM), Stephen Witchell (SW), Allan Brown (AB).

Apologies:

Dr Georgina Judd (GJ).

1. Forest School Request

- a. Storage box request approved.
- b. Shed Requested, it was agreed that the preschool/Cotis would be allowed 1 small shed on site, it would be for the forest schools to purchase, install and maintain the shed, it would need to be painted green and be hidden from the neighbouring properties and paths. All risk to this structure would lay with the Forest schools. It is proposed that the best location would be the Meadow View end (South) of the field, hidden with the bramble patch.
- c. Posts for Shelter request, it was agreed that they could proceed, but a location will need to be confirmed.
- d. Bug hotel materials, it was agreed to allow Bug hotels on site, but that materials should be gathered from the site, rather than importing new materials.
- e. Campfires have been agreed, as before, they must be off the ground, no trace must be left and all waste to be removed from site.
- f. Agreement update
 - i. Preschool have signed and keys collected.
 - ii. Cotis have been chased and a key will not be issued until the agreement is signed.
- g. Grass cutting of forest school area frequency is too high and it should be brought down from 13 to 2 or 3 cuts in the growing season. With additional cuts as requested.
- h. We are not to advertise the new forest school area.

2. Works Update

- a. 1 of 4 benches installed by Monday Group, wet ground conditions have delayed installation.
- b. The cycleway has been cut by WSCC ahead of the new hedge being planted, it is agreed for the parish council to cut the verge areas twice a year to match the PROW.
- c. The brambles are to be kept back on the southern side of the cycleway to prevent encroachment. This is a possible volunteer job, and they could control the brambles in Walnut tree field, bramble control.
- d. SW is to go back to Dan Phelps at WSCC about fencing in St George's Green rather than hedging. SW to confirm whether this has been approved.
- e. It was agreed to put in Hurstlife that the cycleway will be closed on Christmas Day, one day a year it must be closed due to it being a permissive path, notes placed at each end will be enough.
- f. SW is to enquire how the consultation is proceeding.

3. Grants

- a. Grants to be published in December, applications open in early 2025
- b. SW is to proceed with registering with the RPA (Rural Payment Agency).

4. Site Plan

- a. Company in Lewes made the original Site Plan.
- b. We would be looking to have a site plan made which we own and edit ourselves.
- c. It was discussed whether we could create a map from Parish online and cropping the sides with tabs. SW to investigate whether there is a licencing issue?
- d. SW to investigate whether Christopher Maidment could help us, he clearly has the skill set.

5. Path Improvements

- a. Request for Buckwilly west to South Path.
- b. Buckwilly from Bellow Nose Gate, does need improving, SW to speak to Andy wright and Barcombe to obtain costings. only use clean type 1 MOT as a formation layer (perhaps on terram membrane/geocell if required) and then a sub-base of smaller crushed stone, and topped by a surface dressing of fines/road planings/dust or similar ie the majority of the Barcombe paths and part of the upgrade in the Millennium Garden. To run from the bridge to the bottom of the hill only.
- c. Another site to investigate is Fifteen acre by the primrose cottage entry, and branch to the South, North and straight on.
- d. Northeast walnut tree field, is not needed at this time.
- e. Long term thoughts are to instal a circuit around Fifteen acre.
- f. SW to Look at entry areas to see if material is needed to prevent muddy patches from forming.
- g. Can anything be done by 11th Jan 2025 at Buckwilly, due to the Wassail event. Do we have any Grasscrete material that could be used as a temporary measure.
- h. Chicken wire to be installed on the surface of the timber bridges to prevent slips.

6. Management of Orchard Hedge

- a. The hedge is getting too tall in orchard,
- b. It is agreed to inspect the Hedge and determine our actions in the spring.
 - i. Is there plastic on the base of the hedge?
 - ii. Can we cut the hedge, is there budget to achieve it?
 - iii. Food for wildlife and eggs from butterflies?
 - iv. Can it be achieved by Hamish, a Contractor or Volunteers?

7. Preparing whips in Walnut Tree Field for Winter

- a. Take the plastic guards off in Edgerly and leave in walnut tree. Some need straightening and broken one removed and grass pulled out of guards.
- b. A Volunteer session is planned for January.
- c. Susan Dyke to be updated for Hurst Society meetings.

8. AOB

- a. Martin Sadler to strim around trees, 7 new trees to go in, one to be replaced.
- b. Website needs to be updated, as does the management plan.
- c. Apprentice would be good to look to take over the orchard when Martin cannot continue.

