



20th July Climate and Nature Pre-Committee Meeting Online Zoom Meeting Notes

Meeting start: 6pm

Members of the public in attendance: 5

Officers Present: Daisy Finniear (Project Officer)

Councillors Present: David Goodwin (Chair), Linda Williams, Julian Selman, Peter Semenenko, Pat Hockey, Dave Hockey.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Tristan Clark.

2. Meeting set up explained

It was explained that this was a pre discussion meeting as committee meetings now must legally be held in person. Online pre discussion meetings will allow more members of the public to participate. All recommendations made at this meeting are to be taken for approval at the in-person committee meeting with voting councillor members. The public are welcome at the committee meeting however must contact Daisy first to ensure capacity at the venue.

3. Introduction from Frome Valley Growing Group

A representative from Frome Valley Growing Group (FVGG) provided a presentation. The growing group have 1.5 acres of land which they manage in a permaculture style. They have a “no dig” set up which increases biodiversity and improves the structure of the soil. FVGG aim to increase awareness of where compost is going and the content of plastic. They are promoters of zero waste cultivation and are creating an edible landscape which works in collaboration with nature. The group save seeds for Bristol Seed Swap. Cllr Goodwin asked whether FVGG could work with Floral Friends of Frampton to seed swap.

Recommendation: Frome Valley Growing Group and Project Officer to liaise and investigate opportunities to collaborate on seed swapping and information sharing.

Recommendation: to promote the issue of plastic in garden waste through the parish communication channels.

4. 3- Year Project Plan Timeline

The purpose of the 3-year project plan was outlined, stating it will form the basis for a more detailed Climate and Nature Action Plan for the village.

Members of the public raised that the current plan felt like a random list of projects – no coherence to an outsider. As headings they need to be part of an overall plan. Need more species monitoring – Project officer and Cllr Selman explained this will be expanded upon over the coming months. Cllr Goodwin stated that some projects on this list are part of other Parish Council projects.

Cllr D Hockey suggested speaking with Yate Town Council about their experience with installing the pond at Kingsgate Park. Project Officer to investigate.

Recommendation: To change the timeline of Centenary Field management to be from 2021 for the next 3 years as agreed within contract and to change Centenary Field pond timeline to include investigations in 2021/22 and installation in 2022/23.

Recommendation: To approve the suggested timeline and prioritisation for the 3-year climate and nature plan and to work towards expanding this list into a detailed Climate and Nature Action Plan for the village.

Recommendation: add creation of climate and nature policy to 3-year project plan timeline.

5. Hedge at The Park

Recommendation: To plant native hedgerow in front of the damaged fence near Park Row (which is to be replaced) at The Park to help encourage biodiversity.

6. To review draft Pesticide and Nesting Bird Policy

Recommendation: To approve the Nesting Bird Policy and inspection sheet after adding a section on ground nesting birds to, including the following information:

- Ground nesting birds shall be considered before mowing takes place in areas with long grass and where appropriate, such as the Centenary Field hay meadow, to allow areas of grass to grow throughout the breeding season to provide habitat for ground nesting birds. Where long grass is required to be cut during the breeding season, the nesting bird inspection sheet must be adhered to and a walkover of the site undertaken to check for evidence of nesting.
- When work needs to be undertaken by the River Frome, to consider birds nesting nearby and consider conservation work to enhance.
- Communication with members of the public, farmland owners and dog owners shall also be encouraged to raise awareness of ground nesting birds and to encourage responsible dog ownership during the breeding season.

Recommendation: to include Game act information in the nesting bird policy.

It was raised by a member of the public that there is more to hedgerow management than nesting birds to consider and the committee should consider an active hedgerow management policy.

Recommendation: to research and create hedgerow management policy for the parish council as part of the climate and nature policy, establishing the wildlife friendly way for managing hedges for wildlife and safety.

The pesticide policy was discussed and it was raised by Cllr. P Hockey that the Council resolved not to use pesticides on their land. Chair stated that comments in red are not proposed to go into the policy but are comments to consider from the Estates Officer.

It was raised by a member of the public that blanket bans are difficult to maintain.

Recommendation: to not allow weed killer at this stage at the car park at the Brockeridge Centre, instead to consider a volunteer day to remove weeds by hand with a call for volunteers in the Frome Valley Voice.

Recommendation: To approve the pesticide policy after removing the comments from the estates officer which have not been accepted and to add that the Clerk can have delegated power to approve use of pesticides for urgent issues and must report to the committee.

The access issue for contractors entering the Centenary Field was raised. Project Officer explained that the new contractors used small equipment and access was not an issue, therefore a new gateway does not need to be installed.

Recommendation: that a new access point does not need to be installed at the Centenary Field. This is to be communicated with Drews Yard.

7. Planting across the parish

The Park and Centenary Field Planting

The issue of sexual predation where dense hedgerows are present was discussed. The committee was asked to consider if there are gaps to fill from ash dieback that could be infilled with new plantings.

Recommendation: For the Committee and interested volunteers to assess the corner of the Park by Park Row for conservation potential to consider if enhancement is required through planting native flowers and shrubs.

Recommendation: Project officer to seek cost for planting of hedge infill from current contractor at the Centenary Field and to research the costs and benefits of hedge laying.

Recommendation: For the climate and nature committee to review the management contract at The Park to investigate where conservation areas, flower, hedges and trees could be established and to seek advice prior to planting on suitable species and crime prevention associated with increased hedge coverage. Stakeholders including nearby residents, sports clubs to be engaged prior to final plan and to consider the impacts on the proposed accessibility pathway.

Covid-19 Remembrance Tree

A member of the public proposed the idea of a COVID-19 remembrance tree to be planted at the Centenary Field.

Recommendation: To source 3 quotes to plant a native tree with a plaque in the November planting season at Centenary Field to reflect on positive togetherness of the pandemic using the £5000 Community Relief Fund. Wording for the plaque to be decided prior to purchase.

Sessile Oak Tree

The oak tree location at the triangle was discussed. Cllr Semenenko highlighted the support from over 200 people on Facebook and suggested the tree would provide a focal point in centre of village and that there are trees throughout cities that do not prove an issue.

It was explained by the Project Officer that the tree could create visibility issues and tarmac damage from roots. Floral Friends of Frampton were advised not to plant anything over 2m on the triangle by South Glos Council. The tree could also make planting of flowers difficult for Floral Friends as it grows large.

Cllr Goodwin suggested that the tree could be used as the Covid memorial tree. This offer was not accepted by the owner of the tree who will pursue the issue with South Glos Council.

Recommendation: That no large trees will be considered for planting at the triangle for health & safety reasons, and following advice from SGC.

Scouts and Centenary Field Planting

Frampton Scouts contacted the Project Officer asking permission to plant trees on Parish Council owned land as part of the Queens Jubilee.

Recommendation: To work in collaboration with Frampton Scouts to:

- i) plant native mixed trees as part of the Queens Canopy scheme in celebration of the Jubilee.
- ii) to apply for free diverse native trees from the Woodland Trust and Forest of Avon Trust “Trees for Life” grant.
- iii) to give permission for the Scouts to plant a mix of native woodland trees at the Centenary Field to create a connecting woodland, providing a map of the approved tree locations (map). A small selection of fruit trees to be planted at the southern edge if they can be sourced.
- iv) to instruct the Centenary Field Management contractor to purchase tree spirals and stakes as part of the contract, to be used on the trees planted by the scouts.
- v) To work with the Centenary Field contractor to provide advice on tree planting.

Recommendation: for project officer and climate and nature volunteers to contact local businesses to encourage tree planting, grass growing and raising awareness of improving biodiversity.

Volunteers interested in helping with this project to contact Daisy on projectofficer@framptoncottesell-pc.gov.uk.

Farmland and Trees Update

Cllr D Hockey spoke to local farmers with a positive response on future tree planting on their land. Farmers have been put in contact with Winterbourne Environmental Group leaders to set up meetings with farm liaison officer.

8. Local Nature Reserve Update

Deferred. An email update to be sent to the committee from Project Officer.

9. Any Other Business

Member of the public present has knowledge on trees. It should be investigated to see if South Glos Council, the Tree Council and Forest of Avon still have tree warden paperwork and to investigate if training could be available for tree wardens.

Recommendation: to set up a climate and nature group session to form a joint response to south Glos Councils Green Plan consultation and local plan.

Recommendation: To create a task and finish group for investigating the issue of sewage in the River Frome. Project Officer to contact Winterbourne Environmental Group.

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be a committee meeting in person to approve recommendations from this meeting and will be held at 6pm on the 28th July at the Brockeridge Centre.

Meeting closed 20:27.