



11th May 2022

An ORDINARY MEETING of the **CLIMATE & NATURE COMMITTEE** will be held on Wednesday 18th May at **6.30pm – 8pm** at the Brockridge Centre and the following business will be transacted. All Committee Members are summoned to attend.

Kind Regards

Daisy Finniear

Daisy Finniear
Climate and Nature Officer to the Parish Council

Members of the public and press are very welcome to attend. However, due to the pandemic and ensuring the safety of everyone, we please ask that you confirm your attendance to the Climate & Nature at least 5 days before the meeting so we can ensure the venue is sufficient to accommodate. Contact nature@framptoncotterell-pc.gov.uk or call 01454 864442.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

MOTION: To receive apologies and note.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and DISPENSATIONS

With reference to items on the agenda Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare interests and to update their Register of Interests as required, and request any dispensations, under the Localism Act 2011.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (9th March 2022) p3-7

MOTION: Committee to approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting.

4 OPEN MEETING

Public participation: Members of the public will be invited to speak and/or question the Committee on issues relating to this agenda or raise issues for future consideration. The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders shall not exceed 20 minutes, max. 3 minutes per person, and will be under the direction of the chairman of the meeting.

5 CLIMATE AND NATURE DISCUSSION MEETING 13th April 2022 p8-12

MOTION: To consider and approve recommendations made at the discussion meeting.

6 MEADOW MONITORING: CENTENARY FIELD p 13

MOTION: To consider arranging volunteer meadow monitoring at Centenary Fields and Black Rocks in July 2022. To purchase 100 bamboo canes for 1m x 1m quadrat sampling using EMR 332.

- 7 FRAMPTON COTTERELL NATURE CALENDAR REVIEW P14**
MOTION: To receive a verbal update from Frampton Cotterell Nature and to consider supporting monthly nature activities.
- 8 POND UPDATE CENTENARY FIELD P15-20**
MOTION: To review the pond feasibility report and decide on action moving forward.
- 9 NEIGHBOURHOODS OF THE EARTH**
MOTION: to receive a verbal report from Climate and Nature Officer.
- 10 CHEMICAL FREE MOSS AND WEED CONRTOL: WEED SWEEPER HIRE P21**
MOTION: To consider trialling a mechanical weed and moss remover through daily hire. To seek approval from Full Council.
- 11 PIGGERIES HEALTH & SAFETY CONTRACT**
MOTION: To consider adding the Piggeries tree health and safety works to the current tree contractors workload as a contract addition. Documents to follow.
- 12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Frampton Cotterell Parish Council



Clerk/CEO to the Council
The Brokeridge Centre
Woodend Road
Frampton Cotterell
Bristol
BS36 2LQ

An ORDINARY MEETING of the CLIMATE & NATURE COMMITTEE was held on Thursday 9th March 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Brokeridge Centre and was attended by the following:

Chairman: D Goodwin

Parish Councillors: T Clark, D. Hockey, P. Hockey, J Selman

In Attendance: 1 member of the public (D. Hanks, non-voting member).

Clerk/CEO- Minute Taker: Daisy Finniear (Climate & Nature Officer)

Meeting started 18:40.

ITEM	MINUTE	VOTE / ACTION
CN/2022/43	APOLOGIES	
	Cllr L. Williams	Proposed: JS Seconded: PH
	IT WAS RESOLVED that the apologies be noted.	All in favour
CN/2022/44	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / DISPENSATIONS	
	None received	
CN/2022/45	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (19th January 2022)	
	IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and be signed accordingly.	Proposed: PH Seconded: JS
		All in favour
CN/2022/46	OPEN MEETING	
	Regular volunteering days should be arranged as part of the future BioBlitz meetings.	
	Cllr D Hockey raised that the committee should consider hybrid meetings in future.	
CN/2022/46	CLIMATE AND NATURE DISCUSSION MEETING 9th FEBRUARY 2022	
i)	IT WAS RESOLVED to purchase an 80L PPE recycling box from REWORKED at a cost of £50 to trial the scheme at the Brokeridge Centre, as recommended by Plastic Free Frampton Cotterell out of	Proposed: DG Seconded: JS
		All in favour

	general enhancement EMR.	
ii)	IT WAS RESOLVED to arrange quarterly seasonal Bioblitz events with guided nature walks. Nature Officer to work with D.Hanks and the Frampton Nature Group to arrange.	Proposed: TC Seconded:JS All in favour
iii)	Climate & Nature Officer raised that the clerk has been working on contacting owners of Jubilee Allotments. IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend that Finance & Governance committee accept the Jubilee Allotments grant application from Frampton Cotterell Nature group subject to land owners permission.	Proposed: JS Seconded: DH All in favour
iv)	IT WAS RESOLVED to install water refill station (bottle only) in time for the Jubilee at Beesmoor Road, subject to a suitable cleaning regime.	Proposed: DH Seconded:JS All in favour
v)	IT WAS RESOLVED to help promote citizen science nature projects run by Nature Group on Parish Council communication platforms.	Proposed: JS Seconded:DH All in favour
vi)	IT WAS RESOLVED to promote the issue of car idling on Council communication platforms and to contact Winterbourne Environment Group to see if they need help with their campaign.	Proposed: JS Seconded:DH All in favour
vii)	The recommendation to submit a committee response for the South Glos Local Plan phase 2 was discussed and agreed that this was an action as Cllr Selman has already drafted a response and shared with Full Council. Cllr J Selman raised that the climate and nature committee should send a separate response that reiterates Full Councils.	
CN/2022/47	CLIMATE AND NATURE ACTION PLAN UPDATE	
	Cllr P Hockey praised the species lists made by the nature group. Consider having a few hard copies available at open day events. IT WAS RESOLVED to approve sharing the updated plan with residents and continue to share and welcome feedback.	Proposed: JS Seconded:DH All in favour
	The motion to declare a climate and nature emergency was discussed. Cllr J Selman suggested that the climate emergency deceleration should go at the beginning of the action plan when it is declared. Cllr J Selman shared that South Glos Council have declared a climate emergency and the Parish Council should support this with its own declaration.	

	<p>Cllr D Goodwin raised that the committee should ensure resources are available to act accordingly on a climate and nature declaration. Policies should be in place to ensure the council acts with climate and nature considerations in all decision making.</p> <p>Cllr P Hockey raised that the Climate and Nature committee could ask the Planning Committee to do a check list to consider climate when making decisions.</p> <p>Cllr T Clark raised that the parish councils carbon footprint should be calculated and a plan in place to reduce it.</p> <p>Climate Nature Officer agreed to calculate the parish councils carbon footprint using the South Glos Climate toolkit and add to the plan.</p> <p>Cllr D Hockey highlighted the projects undertaken so far that the parish council should be proud. Solar panels for example – show how we want development to be done in the village. Collectively agree these values as a council. Dani should make sure community know what we are doing. In the best way we can for environment within our budget.</p> <p>D Hanks suggested the committee should have an environmental statement to go with the declaration.</p> <p>ACTION for Climate and Nature Officer to draft a rationale document to support a climate and nature emergency declaration including how the council should operate, and to research examples of what other parish councils have done after declaring a climate emergency.</p>	
CN/2022/48	CENTENARY FIELD GRASSLAND AND WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE	
	<p>Climate and Nature Officer explained that the mowing of new wildflowers and plug planting had not yet been done. Contractor happy to catch up on additional works in the next financial year to compensate, or offered reduction in price this year.</p> <p>Contractor requested to undertake thinning work in summer instead of the autumn/winter as per the plan. This was discussed and no changes to the original timescales were agreed, thus the contractor shall undertake thinning work in Autumn/Winter 2022 as per the plan.</p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend F&G pay Bamfield Tree services for the woodland and grassland management works and for thinning work to be undertaken early autumn as per the plan.</p>	<p>Proposed: JS Seconded: TC</p> <p>All in favour</p>
CN/2022/48i	<p>Climate and Nature Officer raised that the plug planting section of the plan could be undertaken by volunteers using EMR 330, which is reserved for plug planting and amounts to £577.</p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED for nature officer to organise plug planting with volunteers for Autumn 2022 at Centenary field using EMR 330</p>	<p>Proposed: DG Seconded: JS</p> <p>All in favour</p>

	and to investigate using some of the funds for understory shrub planting in the woodlands.	
CN/2022/49	BUG HOTEL WOOD CARVING PLAQUE AND LOCATION	
	<p>IT WAS RESOLVED</p> <p>i) to approve the location of the bug hotel at the Centenary Field, in AREA 1 located near Mill Lane near the 1st woodland.</p> <p>ii) to approve the following wording on the bug hotel 8” x 4” wood carving plaque:</p> <p><i>Welcome to Centenary Fields</i> <i>Purchased in 1994 to celebrate 100 years of Frampton Cotterell Parish Council</i> <i>An open space for wildlife and residents to enjoy</i> <i>Look out for bugs – this wood carving is also an insect hotel!</i></p> <p>The idea of an additional bug hotel sign was discussed. It was suggested that the information on the bug hotel should be added to the new information board when installed instead of adding an additional sign.</p>	<p>Proposed: DH Seconded: JS</p> <p>All in favour</p>
CN/2022/50	LOCAL PLAN PHASE 2 RESPONSE	
	<p>The motion was considered, and it was discussed that the climate and nature committee should respond to the local plan, not just individual councillors.</p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED for the Climate & Nature Committee to submit a response to South Glos Council’s Local Plan Phase 2 in line with the Full Council response.</p>	<p>Proposed: DG Seconded: JS</p> <p>All in favour</p>
CN/2022/51	TASK AND FINISH GROUP MEETING DATES	
	<p>IT WAS RESOLVED to form task and finish groups on the following dates, providing no clashes with existing meetings, and to invite councillors and members of the public to participate:</p> <p>Bioblitz & Nature events – 23rd March. D Hanks, J Selman.</p> <p>Nature Trails Booklet – 20th April. David Hanks</p> <p>Parks and Rewilding – 17th May. D Goodwin, D Hanks, J Selman, P Hockey.</p> <p>It was discussed that the groups should be mindful of terms of reference requirements and reaching relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Proposed: JS Seconded: DG</p> <p>All in favour</p>
	IT WAS RESOLVED to suspend standing order 3x.	<p>Proposed: TC Seconded: DG</p> <p>All in favour</p>
CN/2022/52	PROJECT PLAN AND BUDGET	
	The budget and underspends were summarised by Climate and Nature Officer.	<p>Proposed: JS Seconded: TC</p> <p>All in favour</p>

	IT WAS RESOLVED to request that Finance & Governance consider reserving the underspend from the Centenary Field contract (4115) budget for hedge laying works.	
	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	Online meeting 13 th April 6pm Committee meeting 11 th May 6:30pm	

The meeting closed at 20:49.

Chairman

Date:

DRAFT



An ORDINARY MEETING of the CLIMATE & NATURE COMMITTEE was held on WEDNESDAY 13th April 2022 at 6.00 pm on Zoom and was attended by the following:

Chairman: Cllr D Goodwin

Parish Councillors: Cllr T Clark, Cllr D Hockey, Cllr P Hockey, Cllr J Selman (Vice Chair)

In Attendance: 3 member of the public and d hanks

Climate & Nature Officer - Minute Taker: Daisy Finniear

ITEM	MINUTE	RECCOMENDATION/ ACTION
1	APOLOGIES	
	Cllr David Goodwin & Cllr Linda Williams	
2	PLASTIC FREE FRAMPTON COTTERELL MEETING AND THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT SIGN UP THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT	
	<p>The meeting notes from the Plastic Free Meeting were noted.</p> <p>Cllr Selman summarised the TerraCycle Recycling scheme and noted that the Plastic Free Group would prefer to start with the dental recycling scheme if available.</p>	<p>RECCOMENDATION that the climate & nature committee apply for free teracycle recycling schemes to be sited in the Brockridge centre. To start with dental product recycling scheme if available and then replace with any free scheme. Sarah from the Plastic Free Group shall administrate the set up and returning of the box.</p> <p>RECCOMENDATION: that Frampton Cotterell Parish Council</p>

		<p>promote the Gillette recycling scheme on social media channels</p> <p>RECCOMENDATION: that Frampton Cotterell Parish Council to share information on the PPE recycling box in the next newsletter</p> <p>ACTION: that group members sign up for the Big Plastic Count.</p>
3	BIOBLITZ TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATE AND CONSIDERATION OF WILDLIFE MONITORING EQUIPMENT	
	<p>D. Hanks raised that a moth trap would be ideally available before the end of May to take part in the</p> <p>Practicalities: The practicalities of the 30th Nature BioBlitz event was discussed. Communicate with attendees that car parking will be limited. The Globe to be contacted to ask if people can use their toilets.</p> <p>Advertising: FC nature group arranged for C of E schools to put the event in their newsletters. Event to be published on Parish Council’s social media, website, Frome Valley Voice, local shops/clubs, noticeboards</p> <p>Activities and equipment: Sally Pattinson may run some arts and crafts on the day as well as brining bat detectors to lead bat walk. Mammal tracking footprint tunnels being investigated by D Hanks. Bug pots being sought by bug walk leader. Show and tell of items, e.g otter spraint, to be investigated.</p> <p><i>NB City Nature Challenge contacted us and are attending event. Brining bug pots, nets, and microscopes.</i></p> <p>Wet weather plan: organisers to monitor forecast closer to the day and postpone if extreme wet or windy weather predicted.</p> <p>Future equipment: A member of the public raised that old carpet and roofing tiles can also work as reptile reguga. Refuga should be tagged to make people aware of the purpose.</p>	<p>RECCOMENDATION: to consider allocating £700 from EMR 332 for 3 bat detectors, one moth trap and 30 reptile refuga for use by volunteers.</p> <p>Action: Daisy to ask The Globe about toilet use during the BioBlitz event.</p> <p>Action: Daisy to plan administration and storage of wildlife equipment.</p>

	Cllr Clark raised that a storing and administration plan should be put together for the wildlife equipment.	
4	HEDGE LAYING QUOTE FOR CENTENARY FIELD	
	<p>D. Hanks raised that hedge laying should be undertaken 5% at a time, so each hedge line to be completed over several years.</p> <p>The committee should consider investigating training volunteers to work on hedge laying.</p> <p>A member of the public raised the need to consider seasonality and only undertake hedge laying outside of bird nesting season.</p>	<p>ACTION: Daisy to ask current Centenary Field contractor if they offer hedge laying training and investigate training volunteers to work on hedge laying. Only 5% of hedge to be laid at any one time.</p>
5	POND AT CENTENARY FIELD UPDATE	
	<p>Climate and Nature Officer summarised the status of the pond and raised that the council's preferred ecologist is coming out to make recommendations on 21st April.</p> <p>Climate and Nature Volunteer was thanked for their work on the SWOT analysis and pond plan.</p> <p>Cllr P Hockey raised that the ecologist should consider a 'sacrifice pond' for dogs as well as a wildlife pond.</p>	<p>Action: Daisy to raise the idea of a sacrifice pond and a wildlife pond with the ecologist.</p>
6	ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENTS UPDATE	
	<p>The Allotment Holders' Association must be contacted to confirm that the suggested changes are acceptable.</p> <p>It was raised that mole traps have been used on the Mill Lane allotments. The agreements should state that mole traps are not permitted.</p>	<p>RECCOMENDATION: to recommend changes to F&G providing changes are inline with the allotment associations and include prohibition of mole traps within the agreements.</p>
7	COMMUNITY ASSET SURVEY UPDATE	
	It was noted that some results from the survey were not clear on identifying land locations.	<p>ACTION To map out areas clearly to apply for community assets and</p>

	<p>D.Hanks raised that the most requested areas for land assets were Black Rocks and Frampton End and these should be taken forward.</p> <p>Cllr Selman raised that defined maps would be needed to refine areas for designation.</p> <p>Cllr Clark raised the need to consider the cost of that land in case we were able to bid as it would need to be affordable.</p> <p>Cllr P Hockey raised that the Wildlife Trust are looking for nature reserves and may be interested in land that comes up for sale in Frampton.</p> <p>Cllr Clark raised that expectation management should be cautioned as some land may already have agreements between landowners and developers.</p> <p>Cllr D Hockey raised he is in discussion with the Clerk to plan a major development consultation.</p>	<p>consider presenting these areas to public for comment.</p> <p>ACTION: Daisy and Cllr Clark to investigate the significance of pre-existing agreements between landowners and developers in relation to Community Asset Status.</p> <p>ACTION: Daisy to investigate credited polling company costs for a wider community asset survey.</p>
8	VALID GROUP INTRODUCTION	
	<p>The VALID group formed in 2016 when SGC proposed the joint spatial plan and suggested 12000 houses at Roundways in the green belt. 6 residents met with Cllr Claire Young to form a group to gauge public opinion on the proposed developments. VALID stands for “Villages Against Local Intended Development”. The group arranged leafletting, knocking on doors and public meetings and had a big response. They found that most people were against the development proposals.</p> <p>The VALID group seek to prevent further developments suggested within the current Local Plan.</p>	<p>ACTION: to encourage residents to respond to local/neighbouring planning proposals.</p>
9	PERRINPIT SOLAR FARM COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE	
	<p>Cllr Selman wrote to the developers and did not find the reply reassuring regarding pesticide use.</p> <p>It was noted that the parish council approved the development proposal, however the developers should still be made accountable for their action plan on managing biodiversity.</p>	<p>ACTION: to circulate Cllr J Selman’s reply from Perrinpit developers.</p> <p>RECCOMENDATION: to consider seeking further information from the Perrinpit Solar Farm</p>

	<p>Cllr P Hockey and T Clark suggested South Glos Council's environment department should be contacted to find out what their attitude is to the discrepancy between what the developers have promised and what they are proposing regarding biodiversity management.</p>	<p>developers on their assurances and management plan.</p> <p>RECCOMENDATION: To approach Claire Young and Jon Lean to contact key people at SGC and raise concerns regarding the Perrinpit Farm development. Provide copy of emails and issues.</p>
10	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AND VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT	
	<p>Cllr Clark raised that South Glos Council does not promote Neighbourhood Plans any longer. The logistics for developing a Neighbourhood plan are difficult and can take 5-6 years to complete – staff capacity a concern.</p> <p>Cllr P Hockey raised that a consultant would be required to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr P Hockey warned against developing a Neighbourhood Plan due to the workload, timescales, and low influence the plan would have.</p> <p>VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT DISCUSSION DEFFERED.</p>	
12	PEAT FREE COMPOST JOINT STATEMENT	
	DEFFERED.	
13	ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA	
	Contact Climate & Nature Officer with requests.	
14	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person committee - 18th May 6:30pm (location tbc) • Online zoom: 8th June 6pm 	

Meeting End 20:01.



Meadow Monitoring Centenary Field & Black Rocks: Rapid Grassland Assessment

What is rapid assessment?

Rapid assessment (RA) was developed to be a quick survey method and provides a snapshot of the plants present on a site. It is a surveillance method that can feed directly into the management of a grassland using indicator species to inform site management and will allow the Parish Council to review the ongoing management at Centenary Field and a species comparison with neighbouring black rocks.

Key considerations for rapid assessment survey:

- Undertake in June or July when flowers and grasses most visible
- Minimum 20 quadrats per site 1m x 1m – can use bamboo canes tied together
- Grid reference for every quadrat
- Survey sheets to record species found in each quadrat
- Involve community to undertake surveys – training provided beforehand
- Carry out annually to see if our new management plan is improving the site
- Undertake over same week in similar weather conditions. E.g. black rocks on Saturday, Centenary Field on the Sunday.

Survey resources

Visit the PlantLife website below for full resources, including templates for survey sheets and instructions on carrying out meadow monitoring

<http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/advice-guidance/how-can-i-survey-and-monitor-my-grassland/surveying-and-monitoring-grassland-habitats?msclid=2f71e434d04d11ec8acd08d4a69a81a9>

Bamboo cane costs

100 canes will be required if Black Rocks and Centenary Field are surveyed on different days, 200 required if on the same day.

1. B&Q 1.2 Meter canes, x100 = £32.50 incl VAT
2. Iron Acton Garden Centre, 1.2 meter canes x100 = £29.95 incl VAT
3. Kemps Garden Centre 1.2 meter canes x 100 = £60 incl VAT

Recommendation

1. That the Climate and Nature Committee resolve to monitor the meadows at Centenary Field and Black rocks (to compare) using Rapid Assessment. To involve the community as volunteers to participate in the surveys. Nature Officer to prepare the survey sheets, quadrats and analyse data.
2. That the Climate and Nature Committee resolve to purchase x100 1.2m bamboo canes at a cost of up to £50

Events Calendar

	Walks/Surveys	Volunteering activities
January	New Year Plant Hunt. Big Garden Birdwatch Harvest Mice Wintering bird survey	Tree and hedge planting. Hedge laying
February	Harvest Mice Wintering bird survey	Tree and hedge planting. Mow/scythe meadows. Hedge laying. Pond building
March	Harvest Mice. Bees (Bee Walk)	Tree and hedge planting. Tree care. Mow/scythe meadows. Hedge laying
April	Bats (SS). Reptiles Breeding bird survey Bees (Bee Walk). GC Newts	Tree care. River clean up. Himalayan Balsam pulling
May	Dawn Chorus. Bats (SS). Reptiles. Moths (Moth Night) House Martins. Breeding bird survey. Invertebrates. Plants (NPMS). Bees (Bee Walk). GC Newts. Dormouse (footprint tunnels)	Tree care. Himalayan Balsam pulling
June	Bats - (SS, Roost Surveys). House Martins. Swifts. WL Hairstreak. Insect Week Breeding bird survey. Invertebrates. Plants (NPMS). Bees (Bee Walk). Moths. GC Nets. Dormouse (footprint tunnels)	Tree care. Himalayan Balsam pulling. Sow biennial wildflower seeds
July	Bats (SS). Swifts. Big Butterfly Count. Invertebrates. Bees (Bee Walk). Moths Dormouse (footprint tunnels)	Tree care
August	Bats (SS, Bat Walk, Daubentons). Big Butterfly Count. Invertebrates Plants (NPMS). Bees (Bee Walk). Moths. Dormouse (footprint tunnels)	Tree care. Wildflower seed gathering Wildflower seed sowing Meadow ground preparation. Mow/scythe meadows. Semi-hardwood cuttings
September	Bats (SS, Bat Walk). Waxcaps. Reptiles. Bees (Bee Walk). Dormouse (footprint tunnels)	Tree care. Tree and wildflower seed gathering. Wildflower plug planting. River clean up. Wildflower seed sowing. Meadow ground preparation. Yellow Rattle sowing. Mow/scythe meadows. Bulb planting. Pond building/maintenance
October	Harvest Mice. Waxcaps. Bees (Bee Walk) Dormouse (footprint tunnels)	Tree and wildflower seed gathering. Wildflower plug planting. River clean up. Wildflower seed sowing. Yellow Rattle sowing. Hedge laying. Bulb planting. Hardwood cuttings. Pond building/maintenance
November	Harvest Mice. Waxcaps. Wintering bird survey	Tree and hedge planting. River clean up. Hedge laying. Bulb planting Pond building/maintenance
December	Harvest Mice. Waxcaps. Wintering bird survey	Tree and hedge planting. Hedge laying
Throughout	Water quality testing. Otter surveys. Riverfly monitoring. Trees (ancient tree inventory)	Litter Picking. Making deadhedges, log piles, reptile refuges. Making and siting boxes

Wildlife Pond, Centenary Field, Frampton Cotterell



On behalf of:
Frampton Cotterell Parish Council

Prepared by:
Deb Randall Bsc
Ecological Consultant
April 2022

1.0 Instructions/Scope

- 1.1 We have been instructed to identify a suitable location for the creation of a new wildlife pond within the grounds of the Centenary Field, Frampton Cotterell.
- 1.2 This report is based on a ground level and aerial assessment of the site. Except where stated, all dimensions are estimated. An ecological consultant visited the site on Thursday 21st April 2022. The weather was warm and bright.

2.0 Proposed Site

- 2.1 Ponds require a suitable location where it can maintain its own balanced ecosystem to thrive. They should be ideally situated on level ground, in partial shade, and away from too many trees. Too much sunlight can cause excessive algae growth (e.g. blanketweed) which outcompetes other organisms in the pond. Trees can provide shade and protection from the wind, but excessive leaf litter can increase the rate of silt build-up in the pond.
- 2.2 Ponds can be any shape, size, and depth. A pond with more variety in depth and irregular shapes creates a wider range of habitats for invertebrates and amphibians. It is ideal to have a pond with depths varying from 2cm - 200cm deep with shallow inclines around the edges. It is also ideal to create a 'pond complex' with smaller, seasonal ponds surrounding a larger, deeper pond. The ultimate size and shape of the pond will be determined by the immediate physical surroundings.
- 2.3 Aerial images were used to assess the surrounding area to help inform the process. There is an agricultural field adjacent to the north boundary of the site. Agricultural fields may allow fertiliser run-off to affect the pond causing eutrophication which creates poor conditions for pond wildlife. The southern half of the Centenary Field is the most suitable area for the pond where there is a reduced risk of agricultural run-off affecting the pond.
- 2.4 One location was found which meets the pre-existing requirements for the pond, such as a balance between sunlight and shade, and a suitable distance from trees and agricultural run-off (Appendix 1).



2.5 The proposed location is set partially within the hayflower meadow which provides a suitable habitat for amphibians. The south side of the pond will be a few meters from a group of trees which will provide shade and protection from the wind as well as providing an additional habitat suitable for amphibians.

3.0 Site Limitations

3.1 The location identified as suitable is dependent on the removal of 4 Ash trees on the south side of the pond. An arboricultural report from 2021 show the trees are infected with Ash Dieback Disease and recommends compiling ongoing management plan for the trees.

3.2 The proximity of the pond to a group of trees means the accumulation of leaf litter can lead to increased silt build-up over time. It is advised to remove leaves from the pond every autumn. Leaf litter should be left beside the pond before removing altogether to allow any invertebrates to re-enter the pond.

3.3 The proposed site is located within a desire line of the field. It is important to consider health and safety implications of the pond's location as well as protecting the pond such as from dogs or damage.

4.0 Health and Safety

4.1 There are certain hazards associated with ponds and water bodies, particularly the risk of drowning. Consider having the maximum depth of the pond 1m which will only pose a risk to younger children who may struggle to stand up in this depth of water. Alternatively, the pond can be fenced such as by the use of dead hedges, which will also prevent dogs entering the water as well as providing an additional habitat for pond species.

4.2 If the depth of the pond is greater than 1.5m consideration should be given to installing a life ring adjacent to the pond in the unlikely case of emergencies. It should be sufficiently visible and accessible.

4.3 Erecting signs or interpretation boards informing the public of the presence of the pond and its purpose may raise awareness and caution around the site.



4.4 Weil's disease can be caught from freshwater bodies that have been contaminated by infected rats' urine. Although rare, it should be a consideration for health and safety and people should be discouraged from entering the water. Barriers and/or signs should help prevent people from entering the water.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 It is recommended that the pond should be protected by a barrier, such as a dead hedge. This will help prevent people accidentally falling into the water or prevent dogs and humans purposefully entering the water. Barriers will also help protect the wildlife and biodiversity of the pond. A dead hedge is easy to maintain and can provide refuge and habitat for pond species.

5.2 Freshwater Habitats Trust provides a comprehensive Pond Creation Toolkit which should be consulted when designing and creating the pond.

<https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/million-ponds/pond-creation-toolkit/>

6.0 Appendices

- Proposed site location
- Example pond diagram

Deb Randall BSc

Ecological Consultant

Silverback Arboricultural Consultancy

April 2022



Aerial image of the Centenary Field showing
proposed pond location with yellow star

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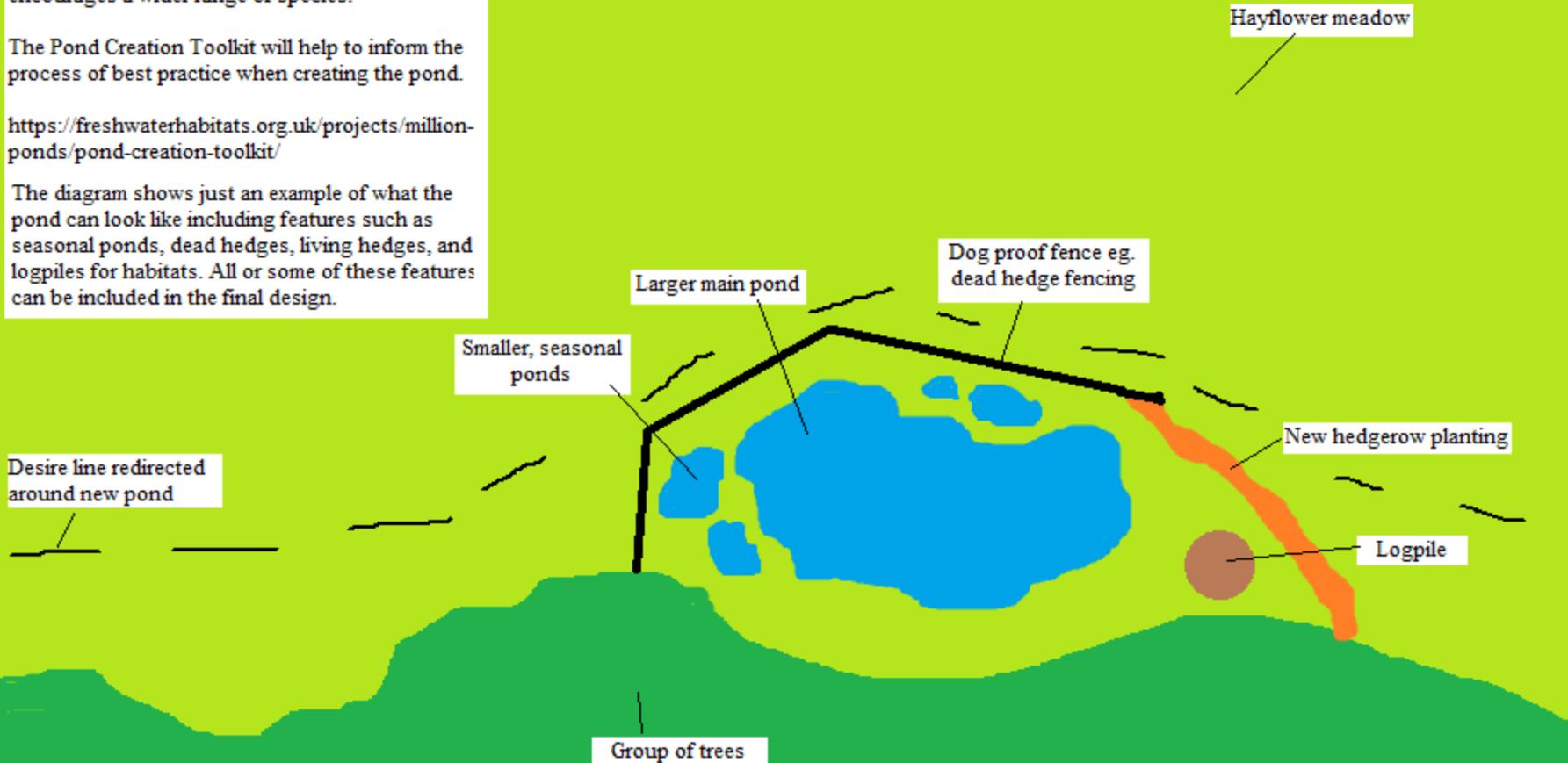
Google

Basic diagram of an example pond in the proposed location showing a diversity of pond sizes and shapes which creates different habitats and encourages a wider range of species.

The Pond Creation Toolkit will help to inform the process of best practice when creating the pond.

<https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/million-ponds/pond-creation-toolkit/>

The diagram shows just an example of what the pond can look like including features such as seasonal ponds, dead hedges, living hedges, and logpiles for habitats. All or some of these features can be included in the final design.





Chemical free moss and weed control

The Estates Officer has raised concerns over current use of OXI BLEACH to remove moss in car parks and tennis courts as it is not approved for amenity use. Further trials for alternative nonchemical weed control should be sought.

COSTS FOR HIRE

Before committing to purchasing machinery for moss and weed removal, the committee and council should consider hiring a mechanical petrol powered weed and moss sweeper for 1 day or 1 week for the Estates Officer to trial.

1. Brandon Hire Station Weed and Moss Sweeper: £72/day incl petrol, or £112/week incl petrol. <https://brandonhirestation.com/tool-hire/cleaning/floor-scrubber-hire/petrol-weed-brush>
2. HSS hire, Weedo weed remover from £78/week. <https://www.hss.com/groundcare/p/pedestrian-weed-brush>
3. £146/day incl petrol or £245/week inc petrol <https://www.bestathire.co.uk/cleaning-equipment/floor-scrubbers/petrol-weed-brush>

Please note all the above machines are different brands and specifications as the same machine could not be sought. Please review the specifications when considering the best option.

RECCOMENDATION

That the Climate and Nature committee recommend that Full Council approve the hiring of a weed sweeper for the Estates Officer as part of the chemical free weed control trial. To approve a spend of up to £250 for the trial and for the Estates Officer to choose the most suitable machine.