



Pond Working Group Meeting Notes

7th September 2022

In attendance: Cllr J Selman, Cllr D Goodwin, Cllr T Clark, Cllr M Bolton, Lesley (volunteer), D Hanks (FCN).

1. Water Source for Pond

Not appropriate to have streams feeding into to ponds. Julian and Ruth investigated the stream under Church Road. The stream went alongside the Centenary Field northward. The stream does not go through Centenary Field and could not be used as a water source.

2. Consultation for Pond

Nature Officer confirmed that Frampton Festival have been contacted regarding the pond, but no reply was received.

The pond plans have been sent to Frome Valley Voice and will appear in the October newsletter.

Pond stalls were set up at the meadow survey day and the MacMillian coffee morning.

Pond plans welcoming comment are on the parish council Facebook page and website.

3. Costs and Funding

Cllr Clark recommended investigating Member Awarded Funding for the pond.

Nature Officer suggested Bee Bold Pollinator fund. The parish council has also reserved £2000 for the pond project.

Nature Officer summarised approximate costs:

- **Mini digger hire £160 per day**
- **Digger driver £270 per day**
- **Liner dependant on material required. Approx £200**

4. Pond design

It was raised that a plastic pond liner should be avoided and to investigate clay if a liner is required. Liner requirements subject to test pit investigations.

David Hanks raised that dead hedge material could be stacked near the bottom gate where the ash trees are being removed (near bug hotel). Arisings from tree works should be left on site for dead hedging works.

Cllr Selman raised that holes should be made in dead hedge for animals to get through. Lesley raised that an access gate should be considered for maintenance works.

The dead hedge cannot be built until after the pond has been dug, so temporary fencing must be investigated.

Cllr Goodwin share the dead hedge made at Newark and suggested we may need to make a taller structure.

The wetland area should cover up to 15m in length, and up to 7m in width. This is to include a smaller pond and successional wetland area.

Lesley raised that the size of the pond liners must be considered carefully if used, order larger than required to avoid sagging of the liner.

Nature Officer confirmed that the pathway near the pond is not a footpath, but a desire line thus can be moved.

The depth of the pond was discussed. The feasibility pond plan recommends varied depths up to a maximum of 2m to benefit wildlife. Concerns were raised over health and safety of a 2m depth. Cllr Selman suggested to take the advice from the pond feasibility plan and make the pond up to 2m in depth, but do not allow public access and to have signage for deep water.

The concept of a viewing platform was discussed. D Hanks suggested a soil-based viewing platform rather than decking as the pond is small. It was suggested that schools use their own ponds for viewing and pond dipping, so a platform may not be required.

ACTION: Nature Officer to ask the woodland contractor if they can work around the test pits to remove the trees.

ACTION: D Hanks to draw up a design for the pond, to use recommendations from the pond feasibility study.

ACTION: Nature Officer and David Hanks to investigate clay liners.

ACTION: Nature Officer to arrange appropriate health and safety fencing and once arranged, to set new date for digging test pits.

ACTION: Nature Officer to investigate how to create a tall dead hedge, including living hedges integrated through.

Meeting closed 19:35.