

CCPC Environment Group Action Notes

In Person Meeting 8 September 2022 7.30pm Mortons Manor Hotel

Present – Helen, Luke, Richard and 7 members of the public (Steven, Alison, Andrea, Vivienne, Peter, Jenny and Jim [part]).

1. Introductions

Apologies received from 4 people.

2. Managing Grasslands Talk by Jim White OBE

Jim gave a very interesting and informative talk to the group, covering topics such as

- Purbeck and Dorset Geology.
- Grassland history, with plants evolved to live in grassland managed by wild herbivores, which were in time replaced by domestic animals.
- The diversity of species in Purbeck, as evidenced by the BSPI of flowering plants showing the richest 10km² as local to us.
- The different types of grasslands and the conservation values of each.
- How certain species of grass crowds out other species to become dominant if the grass is now grazed or mown, e.g. tor grass does this on ungrazed coastal ridges.
- High conservation grassland that can be visited in Dorset include Golden Cap (NT), Kingcombe (DWT) and Powerstock Common (DWT).
- Churchyards provide good examples of old grasslands.
- How there is value to different management approaches for our lawns, for example:
 - Leave grass uncut for early summer, and then cut once the flowers have seeded, and afterward keep cut to replicate a hay meadow which would have been grazed after haymaking to prevent a mat of grass overwintering suppressing the range of species growing next year;
 - Have a no-mow month, e.g. no mow May;
 - Leave two weeks between mows, to allow low growing plants such as daisies and clover to flower.

3. Outcome of Play Area Biodiversity Improvements and Jubilee Project consultations

Helen briefed everyone about the positive outcome of the Parish Council meeting to consider the outcome of the consultation into both projects. Actions taken so far are to provide information to the Clerk to contact landowners about this planting.

Jim kindly gave us some advice about our no-mow areas in the playing field, suggesting that we might sow yellow rattle this autumn to reduce the vigour of the grasses new year and allow flowering plants to better compete. Then if needed in 2024 we could plant plug plants such as ox-eye daisies and knapweed to improve diversity.

Steve offered yellow rattle seeds. **ACTION** Helen and Luke to arrange a working party to sow the yellow rattle, having first cut the grass short and scrapped some areas bare.

4. Sharing your ideas, including spending of allocated funds

There were no suggestions for spending of the EG funds other than for the projects already in progress.

Viv stated she supports the Parish Council regarding having a 20mph speed restriction through the village. There was a discussion about some of the benefits of slower speeds – less noise pollution and slower traffic can increase capacity as pedestrians can cross road without lights. In Zurich there are 20mph zones where pedestrians have right of way; Helen commented that perhaps The Square could be made safer by having ramps at either end and a different road surface to make drivers recognise the area is as a non-standard area, citing changes that have been made in Coventry. The Highway Code has also been changed to change the hierarchy of road users to place pedestrians at the top.

There was also a discussion about the speed of some cyclists through the village.

5. Date / Speakers for Next Meetings

Agreed that we will switch for second Thursday to third Thursday to allow Tom Clarke to come to some meetings.

- **October** - suggestion is to have a combined talk / practical event making use of the “Copse in a Box” kit Luke applied for and won for the EG, to be hopefully led by Cllr Alex Brenton and held in conjunction with the school. **ACTION** Helen / Luke
POST MEETING NOTE - we will also hold a short meeting on **Thursday 20th October** to discuss updates on current projects, spending of our allocated funds and reviewing & streamlining our action plan.
- **17th November / 15th December** – **ACTION** Richard to ask Adam Evans, NT Purbeck Net Zero Coordinator, giving us a talk.
- Ben P has offered to do a talk to the EG at a future meeting.
- **ACTION** Helen to follow up to see if we can get someone lined up to do a talk from Butterfly Conservation for a meeting next spring, and tie in with someone familiar with the Corfe Common transect.

6. Planet Purbeck Festival

Helen and Luke gave a brief idea of the events that are happening locally. Printed timetables should be available in the shop soon.

7. Quick feedback on EG events / last EG Meeting actions

Helen advised that the EG stall at the Church Fair was successful, raising a small amount of money for the EG and saw quite a number of new people added to the EG email list.

Helen shared a printout of the 2019/20 CCPC Environment Group Action Plan and a collated list of the additional items that have been discussed in EG meetings, with the next task being to update the Action Plan into a more flexible format. **ACTION** Helen.

Richard advised that following the meeting with NT, Adam Evans is looking to take forward the Boar Mill turbine as part of the mill refurbishment. Hopefully he will provide more detail if he accepts our invitation to speak at the Nov / Dec meeting.

Open actions

- **ACTION** Helen to compare Jim White's 2022 survey of the no-mow areas of St Edwards church lawns with last year's survey.
- Meeting with NT to be rescheduled - **POST MEETING NOTE** –Friday 7th October. The independent Our Secret Field Group is on hold until then, in the meantime the field will be mowed.
 - **ACTION** Josey follow up on Richard's letter to the PC asking the PC to contact the planners about the new precedent set by the Durlston decision (permission for solar panels in the curtilage of a Grade 2 listed building) in relation to their previous negative response to the PC from DC. A further example is Exeter Cathedral that is Grade 1 listed.
 - **ACTION** Luke is writing a letter to DC on street lighting.

8. AOB

Peter advised that CPRE are running a competition in Dorset School with the prize of a £100 grant, to initiate / develop in children an emotional connection with the countryside. **ACTION** Helen / Luke to see if Corfe School would like to take part and if so connect them to Peter.

CCPCEG Core Group members; Josey, Helen, Tom, Luke, David, Richard

Contact us via the clerk (Michelle) at: environmentgroup@corfeastleparishcouncil.gov.uk