



Calstock Parish Council, Tamar Valley Centre, Cemetery Road, Drakewalls, PL18 9FE

Clerk: Clare Bullimore

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Minutes of a meeting of the Calstock Parish Council, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

held on **Tuesday 20 February 2024**, in the Tamar Valley Centre at 1900.

Those present were: -

COUNCILLORS: Richard Newton Chance, Phil Spurr, Andrew Brown, Jim Wakem

STAFF: Peter Gadd

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Alison Freshney, Gill Court, Peter Bloomfield.

INVITEE: George Holmes, National Trust

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Clare Bullimore, Mark Warwick, Alex Polglase

2. Declarations and Dispensations in Members' Interests

None.

3. Public Participation

Members of the community were present.

4. Approve Minutes of the last meeting, 24-10-2023 and notes from Working Group, 30-11-2023

Proposal/resolution: the minutes and notes be approved. Proposed: Jim Wakem, seconded: Peter Bloomfield.

5. Matters Arising

- staffing: Pete Gadd appointed Outside Services Leader, full time post and lead on Environmental work within the Parish
- Website search performances: emails disseminated for three months' performance but an average 'click' of 557 per month
- Update from the FEAST project – Judith Robinson fed back on this project. There will be an exhibition on 20-03-2024 at Calstock Arts. The last walk was on 10/1/24 - Hidden wildlife - EA and Tamara Landscape Partnership has been really great. A trip to The Box is planned for 6/3/24 and the project culminates in an exhibition on 20th March at Calstock Arts - 13.30-15.30 Jim to speak. It will be useful to have a user friendly version of the Strategy Plan for that event - JR and Clare will work on this. Volunteers are being requested to help staff the exhibition – which will be open for 7 days from 1000-1600. Pete Gadd suggested this would be an opportunity to push the Parish Volunteer programme as well. There is lots of it partnership in kind - but FEAST money is accounted for: a Festival in October



Tamara Landscape Partnership - application to FEAST to support another similar project and a Contribution from PC would help raise our profile. Judith said this has been a very heartwarming experience

- Andrew Brown reported that David Scott has volunteered to ring any willow tits

5. Presentation from George Holmes, Lead Ranger, National Trust, Cotehele

George reported on the following:

- Enhancing and improving the estate to improve bio diversity, carbon capture, acknowledge the productive nature of the valley - work with them to improve things.
- 1300 acres 555 hectares + Cadson Bury several tenant farmers + small holders.
- A team of 4 + volunteers 400 acres
- Encouraging Silver pasture - planting nut trees
- Lots of data collection - sediments etc
- Inter-tidal work - Hay Marsh 17 hectares- feasibility study going ahead EA supporting, talking to St Dominic community
- September results of the study and consultation.
- Natural flood management - Morden weir - not looking at beavers - extending woodland planting further up the Valley on the right
- More woodland pasture up the Morden valley
- Grasslands - harvesting seed Bodmin airfield has amazing wild flowers
- Planting up grassland as wild flower meadows wherever they can.
- Got FIPL funds to pay for a seed harvester - happy to work together on expanding this.
- Former deer park at Cotehele - researching reforming with tree planting.
- Want to open up access across this land
Tenants all have different agreements and can't be told what to do
- Almost all tenants are on countryside management scheme
- Hay Farm an exemplar - ELMS is helping with making pasture more economically beneficial
- Trying to create priority habitat - aim 25k acres
- Any opportunities to work together - keen to do it -
- Grafting trees session next February with head gardener

Peter Bloomfield explained he is trying to get a FIPL project up and running with Becky from the Tamar Valley National Landscapes by the end of summer early autumn. Grants for managing hedges are available so farmers should be interested. The Parish Council - could take a lead on this. There is a national survey - Cornish has highest density of hedges in UK. Need to look at purpose of hedges - but people very entrenched in their views about neat hedges. George said he is happy to host this hedge management project.

Scything course – George is also happy to organise a joint course.

George said that no National Trust land is in a badger culling zone. The National Trust are also supporting tenants with their infrastructure to negate risk to livestock of badgers and are trialling inoculation elsewhere.



Sorting out with tenants pest control - retain control over what that means. Deer management and pheasant control at low level being carried out.

Andrew suggested that Local pheasant shoots be included as an item for the next agenda.

6. Update from Working Groups and to note/approve any planned actions/expenditure

Recovering Nature:

Scything Equipment-Peter Gadd

As part of the CPC's drive to be more environmentally friendly in ground maintenance, it is proposed that the council acquire a few scythes that can be used by members of the public in certain areas, under supervision. It also helps to engage the public in the maintenance of amenity areas within the community in an environmentally friendly way. In particular, the agreement by the CPC to manage Town Farm Field, scything provides a way for the public to become engaged in the maintenance of the field in a nature friendly way, which costs next to nothing.

Equipment:

3 Snaths, maybe one size 2 (small) and two size 3 (medium). @ £68 each =	£204
3 grass blades 60cm long @ £51 each.	£153
3 blade covers @ £15 each.	£45
3 Whetstone Fine & 1 Medium grit @£12 each.	£48
3 Whetstone holders @ £8 each.	£24
Total:	£474

These prices came from Simon Fairlie at Bridport.

Peter Thompson hedgehog group.

Peter Thompson will setup the hedgehog group on Facebook with the aim is to get the community thinking hedgehog and nature friendly gardens.

Hedgehog group headed by Peter Thompson grant.

Hedgehog box material. One sheet of 2.4m x 1.2m hardwood ply costs £40. Each sheet is sufficient to make 3 boxes. 5 sheets will make 15 boxes to be distributed within the community.

One sheet costs £40. Plus fixings £5. Roll of 10mx1m roofing felt (Screwfix) £26. Total: £231.

Two remote cameras with SD cards to be shared out to community on rotating basis. Users provide own batteries. Price £70 each. Total: £140

Total grant claim: £847.

Swift Boxes and associated equipment for Calstock Arts.

Weatherproof Outdoor Speakers (2 pcs) - 3.5Inch 3-way Marine Outdoor Box Speakers - Black All-Weather

Mini Box Speakers- 200W Speakers with Mounting Kit Wires Included £30

8 swift boxes @ £25= £200 from REACCH <https://www.reacchsw.co.uk/> £200



CD player £30
Swift call CD £7
Total £267

Wild About Calstock.

£250. Detail email to follow.

Calstock Arts 22 February 2024:

Black Ops and Beaver Bombing- Fiona Mathews and Tim Kendall @ 1930

Fiona Mathews is Professor of Environmental Biology at the University of Sussex, co-author of the Government's State of Nature Report (2023) and founding chair of Mammal Conservation Europe.

<https://calstockarts.org/event/22-february-2024-black-ops-and-beaver-bombing/>

Great opportunity for the Parish Council to engage with Fiona Mathews, and to ask her to endorse EC Nature's concerns, strategy and future actions.

National Trust George Holmes.

Possible collaborations

Grafting of apple tree.

Fiona Mathews is Professor of Environmental Biology at the University of Sussex- how do we work at a landscape level for Nature Recovers.

Boxes across the Parish, for all appropriate birds and mammals.

Pine Marten boxes in advance of reintroduction.

Meadow making in the Parish- seed collection from Newton to share with NT.

Badger protection and immunisation.

Wet lands and landscape collaborations.

Access to NT- Metherell to Newton to NT

Right to roam: Vixen Tor in Dartmoor, Devon, on 24 February

Hundreds to mass trespass on private Dartmoor land in protest over 'ridiculous' law

supporters will gather at Vixen Tor in Dartmoor, Devon, on 24 February for their latest mass trespass.

<https://news.sky.com/story/right-to-roam-hundreds-to-mass-trespass-on-private-dartmoor-land-in-protest-over-ridiculous-law-13075500>

Peter Bloomfield

Cornwall Advisor Richard Hollis FWAG might be interested in running a joint event at Newton on hedgerow management/advice - sometime next autumn/winter.

Grants:

1. Peter Thompson Hedgehog group. £371



2. Peter Gadd volunteer scything equipment. £474
3. Calstock Art Centre. Swift boxes and associated equipment. £267
4. Wild About Calstock. £250.

Proposal/resolution: the listed projects above are supported – proposed: Jim Wakem, seconded: Andrew Brown – all.

Reducing Impact:

- Feedback on recent meetings: Tamar Catchment Partnership, Hansons Liaison Meeting – disseminated.

Hanson meeting :

AP to follow up the concrete offer

Gravel from Hanson - PG request

SWW Liaison Meeting to be confirmed.

RNC had phone call from Caroline Cadman today - £30m is for the next fifteen-year period and is mainly aimed at reducing the flow of storm water into the existing system. Detailed proposals have gone to OFWAT for approval- response in June and publication in December.

- Fishpass meeting feedback – Peter reported that it has all gone very quiet - no update or planning application yet.

Richard said the Parish Council has submitted EOI in EV charging points to Cornwall for the next round.

Town Farm Field will be a standing item on the E&CE agenda with it being a major item on next agenda to sort out details. A management plan is needed. Andrew will look at mid tiered stewardship and the bridge over the ditch needs sorting.

7. Review of Budget

Clarification that the FEAST budget is ringfenced and will be spent required.

The meeting ended at 2055.

Signed:

Dated: