

Braunston CAN Meeting Notes – Wednesday 20th January 2021

Present

Alan Mawer, Kate Mawer, Tony Renshaw, Alan Morgan, Helen Morgan, David Cary, Abigail Campbell.

1. Constitution.

It was decided that we should have a constitution. The Braunston Canal Society document seemed to fulfil our needs. Aims and objectives are shown on our original documentation that could be incorporated. David and Tony to draft the constitution so that we can apply it to the grant application. Alan (Mo) will send the original BCS word document to David and Tony. David and Tony will circulate the draft asap to all members, but within two weeks.

Confirmation will initially be by email and if needed it can be discussed/finalised on Thursday 4th February 7.30pm.

Bank account discussion – no need at this stage, we will continue to use the Parish Council. A treasurer is needed.

Members – anyone who receives our updates is classed as a member.

Ask members if they would like to hold a responsibility for the group eg Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

2. Committee. Volunteers please step forward.

Discussion delayed until the constitution has been drafted.

3. DDC grant to be finalised on 4th February.

Bid for £420 for tools for volunteer hedge-layers to use to make the Jetty Field hedges more sustainable. This will be an on-going project taking on a section of hedge each year. In addition, these tools could be used in other areas e.g. for managing hedges in other areas of the Parish, with hedge owners agreement. The tools will be stored in the Jetty Field cupboard in the Village Hall Garden Store.

Other items for the application would be the air pollution measuring equipment. The Community Café application may be delayed so it would be good to include the application in the DDC. Abigail will send Alan (Ma) a copy of the Community café application. Air Quality Monitor would be between £200 to £300. We have been advised that we can apply for a number of different grants.

A soil testing kit might guide us re wildflower planting. Helen will research and circulate information for further discussion at the February meeting.

The Parish Council is providing a one-off £1000 from the money saved on verge cutting. This can be used to source plug plants for the churchyard area.

4. Report on tree planting at Jetty Field (Tony and Abigail)

Six trees have been planted. Another five are on order. So, with the Braunston Pippin there will be twelve trees. Aiming for end of February for most of the trees to be planted. Big thanks to Tony for all the planning and planting with Mike Gunn. Trees are looking happy.

The tree planting is a joint project with the Jetty Field committee.

5. Report on meeting with Lee Taylor of DDC (David Cary and Alan Mawer)

Lee Taylor expects to be the environment link with the new unitary authority. Keen to look at big projects and liked the idea of linking villages. Lee was very positive and he suggested a number of parishes could count as a community and work at scale. Lee will help groups put things together.

Harbury approach was discussed.

David will contact Lee to discuss Swaffham Prior project (Cams) www.heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk where they are replacing heating systems with community ground source heat pump units. Once sunk the land will be returned to agricultural use. 160/300 homes are signed up, planning permission has been given. A resident has driven the project. Now being replicated in other villages in a variety of councils. Public funding has been sourced and loans are being arranged. Aiming to be carbon neutral within 5 years.

We will invite Lee to meet with us at a future date. Probably during office hours.

6. Wildlife rich grasslands and the 2021 mowing season.

Awaiting date from Steve Rolt re date mowing will start. Alan (Ma) has asked if it would be useful for us to liaise with contractor.

Spring mowing to start wk beg 15th March – but this will be weather dependent. Agreed we would plant additional wildflowers after the first mowing on Butlin's Hill.

We will be doing new planting in the Churchyard nominated area and the Spinney Hill/Welton Rd junction area

We will plant wild carrot, Ox eye daisy and similar in this area.

Parish Council 2021 funding will be used to make the notices for these areas. Please consider the wording for the notices ahead of the February meeting. Focus on plants that we know will be there. Consider how the notice can develop as the area develops. Incorporate QR codes. Alan and Helen will survey the areas for plants and how it develops.

Wildflower availability from farms. This knowledge can be shared with other villages and we could coordinate both in terms of knowledge and obtaining wildflowers.

7. AOB

- Helen - As there has been no response to our BVN announcements we will make the request again especially after the survey information is published.
- Tony – Alan has included Tony's amendments for BVN article.
- Alan (Mo) – Follow up re questionnaire. The committee will look at some of the comments. Alan will type and circulate comments and we can discuss at the next meeting.