

Land Group minutes 30th Sept 2010

Venue: Ronin Barkshire's.

Present: Heather Hunt; Dan Cox; Ronin Barkshire; Ollie Brereton; Marion Watson; Kevin Walters.

Apologies: Darrell Maryon; Huw Evans; Kerri Cripps.

1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as being accurate.

2 Matters Arising

1. 15 tonnes of compost was delivered from Green Estates of which 2.5 tonnes was applied as a top dressing on the volunteer work day in September.
2. 20 metre steel storage container now in place at the bottom of the upper field; access to keys/combination needs arranging.
3. Darrell endorsed that the planting advice in the minutes is correct.

3 Proposals for Huw

1. Ask John Rose to spread all remaining compost (except 1 tonne) on the top 4/5 of the hectare (including the area already partially covered with compost).
2. Chisel plough the whole hectare.
3. On the top 2/5:
 - (a) cut green manure;
 - (b) leave for a few days to wilt;
 - (c) harrow in.
4. The grass on the top field to be cut but leaving a 2 metre uncut strip around all the edges, adjacent to the hedges.*(see end of minutes for post-meeting update)
5. Leave enough grass clippings in a heap at the top of the hectare for later use as a mulch (approx 3" thick) on the top 2/5 of the hectare.

6. Trade the remaining grass clippings for manure with John Rose.
7. **Action:** Marion to forward information to Huw.

4 Volunteer Days

1. **Action:** Marion to talk to Joan about co-ordinating volunteers and the necessary tools for three work days in October 2010: Sunday 17th, Sat 23rd and Sunday 24th.
2. Sunday 17th October 2010 - Conservation work, bed marking & ditch digging
 - (a) **Action:** Marion to identify the dead tree next to the pond and assess the possibility of it spreading disease to the remaining trees.
 - (b) **Action:** Ollie to check availability of tree surgeon for removal of dead tree.
 - (c) Tools needed: pruning saws; loppers; bow saws; hard hats; high-viz jackets; steps/step ladder; spades.
 - (d) **Action:** Marion to source a 70 metre rope to help mark out the beds.
 - (e) **Action:** Ollie to check availability of marker poles from Tinsley Tree Project.
3. Sat 23rd and Sunday 24th October 2010 - planting
 - (a) Tools needed: draw hoes (6 at least); long measuring tape.
 - (b) Dan suggested timing how long it takes to plant a row to inform future planting projects.

5 Manure

1. Ollie is still waiting for Peter Fletcher to respond to his email about acquiring surplus manure from Norton Nurseries.
2. Ollie has access to a tipper truck and has a heavy goods license.
3. Land group request £50 from funds for 2 trucks of manure (if needed) - to be left at bottom of ploughed hectare ready for potato planting in spring.
4. **Action:** Ollie to check prices for delivering manure to Hazelhurst CSA site.
5. **Action:** Ollie to check availability of used tarpaulins from Tinsley Tree Project.
6. Marion expressed concern that the manure may contain residues of the worming agent Ivamectin which is harmful to soil-dwelling invertebrates.

7. **Action:** Kevin to check scientific literature for information about persistence in manure.
8. **Action:** Ollie to check worming procedure of Norton nurseries manure with Peter Fletcher.

6 Any other Business

1. **Action:** Dan to check out good quality draw hoes he saw at Harrogate Show selling for £5.
2. **Action:** Dan to check out the possibility of acquiring the unused polytunnel at the Botanical Gardens.
3. **Action:** Ollie to check out the possibility of acquiring two unused polytunnels at Norton Nurseries.
4. **Action:** Ronin to contact Joe Atkinson about Tools for Self-Reliance.
5. **Action:** Heather to contact Annie bentham about Tools for Self-Reliance or similar.
6. Ollie has looked into rotavators - recommended model costs approx £800 (Darrell recommends Italian-made rotavators).
7. Marion is still owed £218 for purchase of autumn seeds/sets.
8. **Action:** Ollie to check out availability of tree whips from Tinsley Tree Project for infilling gaps in hedges: prickly trees on the outside, fruit/nut bearing trees on the inside.
9. Date for diaries: CSA Growing Fund raising celidh-Sunday November 21st Broomhall Centre with Well Dressed Band. Heather the liaison person.

7 Date of next meeting

- The next meeting is at 7:30pm at 210 Shirebrook road. 27th October was suggested.
- Heather checked with Darrel and Huw.
- Darrell confirmed he can make this but Huw away all that week.
- Agreed to stick to October 27th and meet up with Huw informally.

Minutes written by Kevin - 1st October 2010

* Email from Marion on Friday 1st October 2010:

Dear Kev and all,

The following has implications for what we agreed should go in the minutes from last night's meeting.

I have just had a conversation with Huw which revealed that we must have misunderstood his email in respect of the boundary cutting. John Rose was proposing to cut only a strip round the field to prevent scrub developing. There is at present no arrangement to cut the rest of the field and reserve a quantity for mulch etc., as Huw had to go and I didn't have time to discuss it. At present the instruction not to cut near the boundary remains although Huw seems to have misgivings about not cutting it at least once a year. The situation is not irreversible if we decide to cut it next year. The conservation aim is to maintain variety in the habitat, particularly for invertebrates, which suffer if the grass is cut all at once. I will have another look at environmental best practice. In the long run it is likely we will be creating a replica 'natural' habitat by planting a buffer strip of shrubs and herbs in that space.

John Rose will be cutting the whole of the hectare because it is necessary to control creeping thistle in the cultivated area. Huw agreed that he would ask John Rose to spread all but 1 ton of the green waste compost on the top 4/5 of the hectare.

We still need to clarify with Huw the opinion about whether the rest of the field should be cut. Relevant considerations might be whether John Rose would advise it would be necessary/ beneficial. If not, would the need for a mulch justify it and if so does it come within Huw's criteria for him to pay for it? It might take a couple of acres cut to provide one acre mulch so cutting with a scythe might be a couple of day's work. If we are going to have any kind of gathering on the field before the end of the year, ??Bonfire, it might be a good idea to have the top of the field cut.

There should be an opportunity to discuss this with Huw before long, either an early land group meeting, informally on work day, or would you like me to raise the issue by phone or email? Ideas?

Marion