

EPICH Committee

March 2 2021

Zoom meeting 6.30

Present: Pat Simpson / Judith Redfern / Wilma Campbell / Pat Fisher / Lynn Wylie / Ken Pattison

Finances / LW.

Current balance £4122.98: £1,068.50 bees, £1,044 general, and £2000 grant for interpretation panels.

Lychgate Orchard Update - WC & PS

Wilma had been to plant some foxgloves and it looks like the kids have been back causing more damage, also the fly tipper has been putting garden rubbish over the fence again despite the leaflet drop on Church View.

It was agreed by the meeting that EPICH / HPC should produce a poster which will be laminated and hung on the Church View side of the fence, asking the fly tipper to stop and pointing out that it is an offence.

On a positive note, the snowdrops planted last year in the green are doing well.

Coach Lane - the meeting discussed the next move after the tidy up of Coach Lane. It was agreed that wildflower seeds should be scattered. We now need a plan for acquiring and sowing seed.

There is an ongoing problem with dog poo and the bin not being emptied. If any of the members see that the bin has not been emptied, contact Street Scene, although poo bags can be put in the general black litter bins.

Seed Swap - PS

the seed swap carousel is now in place in the Grange entrance but as the Grange is only open 10 - 12 at the moment, it's use might be limited until restrictions are lifted.

Bird Hide - JR

everything ok and the squirrel proof feeders seem to be working well. JR reported that a poo bag had been thrown over the fence into the hide.

Zac's video of the birds and a frustrated squirrel had been enjoyed.

Heritage Orchard - PS

it seems that another unscheduled pruning had taken place despite the extremely radical pruning last year and some of the pruning had been done at the wrong time of the year for some varieties of fruit trees. EPICH will provide guidance on pruning and a schedule to be filled in saying when it has been done and by whom.

(Pat/Lynn - just a thought - if the schedule goes into the bird hide poster holder, key access will be required)

Interpretation Panels - PS

Lychgate Orchard & Heritage Orchard.

Pat & Jamie had provided an update to TVNP who are providing the grant. TVNP are happy with the progress especially given the current restrictions.

The Grange - LW

Graham and Lynn Wylie had done a litter pick around the picnic table. The picnic table seems to be

attracting an unpleasant minority who make the mess and are spoiling the area for others.
The raspberry canes were cut in the autumn so the spring bulbs can now be enjoyed.

Hurworth Wild 100 - PS

Pat hasn't heard yet about the possible Banks Grant.

Paddock Farm are keen to be involved in supplying the mini ponds etc.

Pat will check whether the money could be deferred and used next year as the timescale for being awarded the grant (if successful) and advertising and producing the ponds would be tight for this year.

The meeting was keen to get the wildflower plugs and seeds started in the Grange amongst the trees and we would have the money to do this without needing to wait for the grant, if successful.

Pat will check with Banks again in 2/3 weeks.

Hedgehogs - PS.

Nothing has been heard recently from either Mike Bloomfield at YPS, or the Priory School regarding the building of hedgehog homes. We hope to have some commitment by Hedgehog Week in May.

We want to promote the use of the hedgehog map on the Hedgehog Street site and it's important that dead hedgehogs are recorded too.

Pat will ask Jamie to produce something for the EPICH website.

Bee Update - JR

We have lost one of our eight hives, possibly due to the colony being too small to survive the cold spells during the winter but generally small losses are expected and this isn't out of the ordinary. The remaining seven hives seem to be doing well.

Projects - autumn planting of spring bulbs to be planted around the new flowering pear tree in Lychgate once it is planted.

Fences on Roundhill Rd - (Pat/Lynn - I'm not sure if this is appropriate for the minutes until it's raised at the council meeting, just delete if necessary) A member of EPICH had been approached by a village resident regarding the destruction of the hedgerow and replacement by fencing in two places on Roundhill Rd and asking EPICH to take forward their concerns. EPICH members agree that the destruction of the hedgerow should not have happened and will lobby the HPC as individuals and as the EPICH group.

AOB - none

Judith Redfern