



Green Ixworth News

Number 1- January 2021

We've Arrived!

Following our Inaugural Meeting on the 28th of January Green Ixworth is an actual organisation. We now have in place all the essential elements for us to get on with the projects we wish so desperately to complete:

Management Committee

The key posts required for us to make progress have been filled as follows:

Chair: Roger Spiller (roger.larbes@gmail.com)

Secretary: Steve Wilson (steve.bernie@hotmail.com)

Treasurer: Vic Roden

Funding

Vic is setting up an account with Clydesdale Bank so that the grants, fees and gifts can start to roll in! Clydesdale may not prove to be the best choice in the long run but it is free to use while we find our feet. We have been promised funding from the Ixworth Association and also from both our County and West Suffolk Councillors' locality budgets; this will have to cover set-up costs and some of the more expensive items such as wildlife surveys but hopefully there will still be money left over for planting.

Constitution

Those attending the Inaugural Meeting agreed to adopt the draft constitution previously circulated by Roger. Some of our grant providers will require certain elements to be present in the Constitution which may currently be blank. The Management Committee will fill in those blanks in the short term, in order for us to make progress, with the aim of adopting a 'fully populated' version at our first AGM in October.

Communications

We have been struggling on so far using the private email addresses of individual members. Previous experience of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group tells us that this is a matter we must get right at the first attempt – we need an email account which is accessible to all GI Officers and that access must be capable of being passed on to new incumbents. It may be that this can be linked to our other aim of an independent GI website.

Tony Phillips has kindly agreed to lend his expertise in setting up a simple website and teaching others how to maintain it. Costs of such a site do appear to be quite reasonable. Roger and Steve are also consulting with Community Action Suffolk about this because of their wide experience of voluntary groups like ours.

There was a strong feeling that Facebook will be a useful tool for promulgating news of activities and events (one day!) and it would also be a great place for members to 'meet' and exchange ideas. If any of you have experience in setting up and administering Facebook groups please get in touch.

Membership

Having agreed that we are to be a membership organisation with a nominal fee, Steve and Vic will be in touch before long with the begging bowl.

Further Activities

We had some great input on what exactly GI should be involving itself in beyond the ideas of rewilding and preserving habitat, such as:

Engaging with Suffolk Wildlife Trust regarding the River Black Bourn and with the Jiggins Trust in their plans for developing the playing field.

Seeking to preserve the 'Parish Wood' along the bypass at the end of Crown Lane.

Working to protect the existing wild margin beside the proposed Persimmon housing estate.

Offering support to residents via:

Seed and plant exchanges.

Advice in the form of leaflets and links to information.

Practical help to those with mobility issues.

Engaging with the small team who maintain Robin's Copse in Walsham Road, including providing work parties.

Involving the village's schools once their massive issues with Covid are behind them.

An annual green event in the village.

Ideas for projects are always welcome, as are volunteers to act as project co-ordinators.

COMING SOON

Heat Pump Presentation Don't forget the Zoom presentation by West Suffolk Council's Energy & Environment Team on Tuesday 9 February at 7pm.

www.zoom.us/join

Meeting ID: 952 7730 7668

Passcode: 337423

The Next Project Covid has clearly made all our lives rather more difficult than we could have imagined but there is still work we can do, despite the restrictions, before the planting season comes to an end. Roger is in the process of acquiring hedging to plant in the next phase of the Crown Lane project but the work of both clearing and planting is going to have to be done by individuals, or households, until further notice. Roger will be appealing for assistance soon.

The Next Meeting Our intention is to meet as a group quarterly so look out for an invitation, quite possibly to Zoom again, sometime in April.