

Minutes of the Steeple Woodland Project
Wednesday 29th January 2025
7.00 pm

Attendees Giles (Chair), Ginny, Iain, Rupert, Mattie, Wendy, Lorna C, Keith, Jo, Vicky, Kim

Observers Tamsin (Kehelland), Jenny (St Ives Primary School)

Apologies Dinky, Chris H, Sue

		Action
1.	Apologies	
	Dinky, Chris H, Sue R, Lorna M	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting (13/05/2024)	
	The minutes were agreed as a correct record.	
3.	Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda	
	4. Iain has now taken over the role of Treasurer fully from Nick; he has changed the online banking set-up so that banking is now in his name and he is able to authorise payments 5. The shed inventory has yet to be carried out; Iain and Keith will undertake this task 6. Signs have been purchased and erected 7. Rupert's development of a strategy for managing invasive species is ongoing 9. Fundraising leaflets – nothing to report 10.(iii) The camera is reportedly in the shed; tbc	Iain and Keith: shed inventory
4.	Open Day	
	Giles suggested that the Open Day could be developed to provide wider appeal to local schoolchildren and their parents. The first step would be to change the date to one earlier in the summer, during the second half of the school summer term. This proposal was agreed. Giles presented a proposal from Dinky that would engage children and encourage them to attend Open Day with their parents. This would entail children competing to grow potatoes, with prizes for (i) the heaviest, (ii) the knobbliest, and (iii) the best decorated growing bucket.	



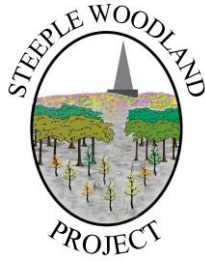
	<p>This and other proposals were discussed with Jenny (school) and Tamsin (Kehelland). It was agreed that:</p> <p>Kehelland will have a stall at Open Day with crafts/activities for children, such as building bug hotels, making seed bombs, making bird boxes</p> <p>School will arrange for each class to grow potatoes and decorate growing buckets</p> <p>School will invite children to take part alongside their parents, growing their potatoes at home</p> <p>Sourcing potatoes, compost and buckets was discussed. It was agreed that SWP was willing to provide funding to purchase growing buckets.</p> <p>It was agreed that the school has funding to purchase potatoes and compost</p> <p>It was agreed that a separate meeting would be held to thrash out the details of implementing the plan. Growing will need to start by March to have potatoes ready for judging at Open Day on 29th June</p> <p>NOTE: Further engagement between SWP and schoolchildren was discussed. One idea was that each class of school children could build a bug hotel, and then they could visit the site and install them, creating a point of interest for each child to return and monitor bug habitation.</p>	<p>Giles to convene Open Day planning meeting</p> <p>Date for Open Day: 29th June</p>
5.	Clothing purchases	
	<p>It was agreed that the following items will be purchased from the same suppliers as used previously, to be sourced and ordered by Giles:</p> <p>Beanies – for all</p> <p>Sweatshirts and polo shirts – as needed, to supply all Volunteers</p> <p>Regarding waterproof trousers, it was agreed that Giles will assess Volunteers’ needs via group email</p>	<p>Giles to order items as listed</p> <p>Giles to email volunteers to assess Volunteers’ requirement for waterproof trousers</p>
6.	Footpaths – map and clearance priority	
	Rupert reported that the map posted at the Shed displays the network of footpaths at the site. Footpaths are colour-coded	



	<p>to indicate those that are permanent (Principle Paths, marked in RED) that must be maintained.</p> <p>Other paths are seasonal and need not be prioritised for maintenance.</p>	
7.	Green Corridor update and date of next meeting (RM)	
	<p>Rupert informed the meeting that the status of the Penbeagle Nature Reserve has been officially recognised as such, and is therefore a protected site. This news was welcomed and Rupert thanked for his hard work towards achieving this goal.</p> <p>A meeting between members of the SWP and of the Community Orchard was held on 17th September 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of developing a green corridor between the two sites. At the meeting it was agreed that in order to proceed with the proposal, it is necessary to (i) define ownership of the relevant land, and (ii) to identify sources of funds that may be available.</p> <p>Rupert reported that he has attempted to make contact with one of the landowners, but has not yet received a reply.</p> <p>Iain reported that he has followed up Chris H's initial investigation of land ownership, and has identified 2 of the 3 landowners; he is awaiting receipt of information concerning the third. Once received, it will be possible to devise a map indicating who owns which relevant stretches of land.</p> <p>Iain proposed that as a first step, one or two selected representatives of the SWP should meet with one of the landowners, to sound out their overall attitude towards the proposal in general. This was agreed.</p> <p>Wendy had been given the task of identifying individuals at Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT) who would be able to assist with the project; she reported that while she has done this, following the presentation by Matt Birchall from CWT at the SWP AGM, personal contact has already been established and follow-up will be straightforward.</p> <p>Ginny agreed to convene a second meeting of the Penbeagle-Steeple Wildlife Corridor Working Party, ideally before the end of February.</p>	<p>Meeting to be arranged between 1-2 selected SWP representatives and "friendly" landowner (possibly Lorna M's sister)</p> <p>Ginny to convene a meeting of the Penbeagle-Steeple Wildlife Corridor Working Party</p>
8.	Bees (MP)	



	<p>Mattie reported that the area in the SWP site that has been identified as suitable for solitary bee habitation has been cleared and prepared for their (hoped for) arrival. There was some discussion concerning possible further sites, which need to be south-facing and/or which benefit from direct morning sunlight. Once identified, Volunteer Work Parties will clear and prepare them. It was proposed that one such site is the bank between the meadows; to be noted for future Work Parties.</p>	<p>Work Parties to clear additional sites for solitary bees</p>
9.	Funds & Expenditure	
	<p>Iain circulated a summary of the SWP's financial position prior to the meeting. This indicates that SWP's general running costs amount to approximately £1000-£1500 annually. This sum is largely covered by funds raised at the Open Day and through calendar sales. Historically, any larger sums donated to the Project have been ring-fenced for specific items.</p> <p>Iain suggested that SWP maintains a reserve balance of £1500-£3000, leaving funds available for purchase of items to be agreed.</p> <p>Ginny suggested that once the tool inventory has been completed, damaged/useless tools should be discarded, the need for new items identified, and purchases made accordingly. This was agreed.</p> <p>It was agreed that additional good loppers and new pitchforks are needed.</p> <p>Potential further items of expenditure were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Training courses eg scything, chainsaw use (ii) Ecological survey (iii) Gazebo(s) for Open Day that can be stored in the shed (iv) Bird and bat boxes – installation would require follow-up surveys to assess success 	<p>To purchase new loppers and pitchforks</p> <p>£1500 per year to be available for training courses</p> <p>Kim to report back re cost of purchasing her sister's unwanted gazebo(s)</p>
10.	Any other business	
(i)	<p>Glyphosate: After some discussion, followed by voting by those present at the meeting, it was agreed that glyphosate treatment of winter heliotrope and montbretia will be</p>	<p>Rupert to make contact with Jason to arrange suitable date for glyphosate treatment</p>



	repeated this year and effectiveness assessed before deciding whether to repeat in 2026.	
(ii)	Ponds: Chris H had submitted his resignation as overseer of the site's ponds; it was agreed that their management will be incorporated into the regular tasks carried out by Work Parties	Pond monitoring and maintenance to be incorporated into Work Party tasks
(iii)	Signs: The damaged sign has still not been repaired. It was agreed that St Ives signs will be asked to supply 3 replacement panels to replace the missing panel and have 2 in reserve for any future damage. Panels can be fixed by Volunteers. Mattie agreed to arrange purchase of replacement panels with Jarrod.	Mattie to contact St Ives signs and request 3 x replacement sign panels
(iv)	Land clearance at the top of Count House Lane: Rupert reported that there has been considerable local concern expressed; the landowner has informed him that he has agreed to allow the excavated soil to be dumped on his land; this may have safety implications as there are many uncharted mine workings in the area. After some discussion it was agreed that there is nothing that can be done at this stage, but that any developments will be monitored informally and reported back to the SWP.	All to keep an eye on developments at the clearance site and report back to Rupert and the SWP
10.	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting of the Steeple Woodland Project will be held on Wednesday 30 th April 2025 at the CORE Building.	