

16 January 2025 at 16 Markhall Close Cheriton 2pm

Present: Barry Frampton BF (Chair), Martin Hendry MH, Pat Lawrence PL, Jane Hendry JH (Sec), Chris Joyce CJ, Pete Williams PW, Pete Reay PW

Apologies: Ann Gunn, Iain Martin

Minutes: Agreed

Matters arising: none

1 Hampshire Highways

There have been no follow ups from HH to the National Trust/Mud Lane flooding, evidence from Simon's photos shows the extent. Soil is coming off the neighbouring area into the stream and being deposited downstream in the river around the village green.

HH should be emptying drains 4 times a year but are not doing so. BF and CJ dug out the Brandy Mount area and Matt Salter (River Trust), with funding from the Lottery, replaced the boards. HH will not maintain going forward.

HH refuse to meet the Hants & IoW Trust as they have no money to contribute.

2 Environment Agency

There was a meeting of Citizens Science, a local group monitoring water quality and related issues as there are concerns that the Hampshire chalk streams aren't being sufficiently monitored and maintained for ecological health. Attendees: Itchen water bailiff, Itchen Conservation Society, a hydrologist, BF and the EA.

3 Oil spillage

EA contractors have undertaken more extraction work (5th time?) following earlier works over 2024. 16 boreholes were dug by EA to ascertain oil spread and surveys undertaken. Despite this information the contractors didn't protect the local habitats so water vole nests and plantings were destroyed. Three households are affected, with the >£1M cost being picked up by householders' insurance.

4 Community Orchard

Hampshire Forest Partnership have offered funding for a community orchard, BF has the application form. 7-20 or more fruit trees are available subject to approval. Possible sites are Freemans Yard, Nicola Cecil's land or the area behind the rugby poles (though this is church land so permission required).

5 Equipment requirements

Following the closure of George Canns an alternative for equipment repairs is sought. Request for gloves, heavy duty shears and possibly a turks scythe for clearing river weed.

6 New volunteers

Additional younger volunteers are needed, the local Scout group have assisted in the past and are keen to continue with specific projects. The insurance limits are 16-80 years so any youngsters have to be accompanied by a parent. It was noted that John Tugwell has recently retired and has a chain saw licence which would assist as BF is currently the only member with a licence. Iain Martin is keen to undertake the training though the cost is >£6K pp which BF is hoping to obtain from Boomtown funding.

9 AOB

1: BF Maggie Shelton gave a presentation on 13 Jan to CPC and interested locals, subject: a Management Plan for the Cheriton Stream, which was well received. The document will be available on the CCVG website and links and information will be sent to the Church & Village magazine for publication so that locals can comment.

2: PL Groundwater levels currently OK. The flood pumps will eventually be relocated to the VH, currently still in the Chapel.

3: CJ the possibility of 'leaky dams' on Joe Corbetts land has been scotched as the distance from the source of the Itchen to the village is too short.

4: BF 2 upcoming workshops – the Salmon and Trout Trust – a 2 hour workshop and 2 hours outside. Plus on 24 Jan 1-3pm a meeting for 6 people on trout redds, everyone welcome.

5: CJ Cheriton House are to trim laurels and plant 25 hornbeans in the land adjacent Back Lane.

6: PW Currently CPC allocate £1500 for conservation works. It is felt that CPC don't fully appreciate the savings that the volunteers make to the smooth running of the village re flooding mitigation, tree work, footpath and ditch clearance and so on.

Afternote: PR requested help from the group to clearing away vegetation at the top of Freemans Yard 'wild' area. Assistance was agreed.

Meeting closed 15:30