

Minutes of the Steeple Woodland Project Monday 13th May 2024 5.30 pm

Attendees Giles (Chair), Ginny, Iain, Mattie, Dinky, Chris H, Nick, Wendy, Lorna M

		Action
1.	Apologies	
	Rupert (Site Officer's Report submitted in his absence; attached), Lorna C	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting (24/01/2024)	
	The minutes were agreed as a correct record.	
3.	Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda	
	Chris reported that wires have been attached to the shed steps to prevent slipping.	
4.	Transfer of Treasurer's role	
	The Chair expressed thanks from everyone involved with the SWP to Nick, who is standing down, for his sterling work as Treasurer, particularly in organising online banking and electronic accounting.	
	lain was proposed by Kim as the new Treasurer to take Nick's place, seconded by Ginny. This was agreed unanimously.	lain to take on role of Treasurer
	lain reported that Nick has already explained the Treasurer's role to him and has handed over paper copies of all the relevant documents. He noted that everything is well-organised and appears straightforward.	
	Nick explained that online banking must be transferred to lain's name before lain can authorise payments etc. Nick will explore how this is done and make the necessary arrangements as soon as possible, but in the meantime, will carry on making payments on behalf of SWP as necessary.	Nick to investigate changing online banking to lain's name; to continue managing online bank account in the interim
5.	Shed Report	



	Giles reported that the new shed has been constructed and the floor laid. Currently, the floor is drying out, but once dried the shed will be used for storing tools.	
	Thanks were expressed to all those who participated in the shed purchase and construction, including Lorna C for research, Rupert for ordering, Chris for designing the base, and Lorna M for supplying wood for the floor.	
	Chris reported that the inventory of tools has not yet taken place, so it has not yet been possible to offer spare tools to other organisations, such as Sycamore Cottage.	Giles and Rupert to oversee taking inventory of shed contents
6.	Signage	
	A pdf of the final design for the SWP signage was circulated with the meeting papers to offer members a final opportunity to make suggestions for modification of the design. None were proposed.	
	Giles reported that in the absence of further suggestions, Rupert has been authorised to liaise with St Ives Signs and finalise the order, confirming the agreed details of spacing, alignment etc.	Rupert to finalise order for signs
7.	Management of invasive species	
	Rupert had submitted a Site Officer's Report prior to the meeting (attached). Page 2 of the Report includes a description of relevant invasive species and suggestions for their management. Species for consideration include montbretia, winter heliotrope, rhododendron, three cornered leek, cotoneaster, hypericum as well as non-native trees (Holm Oak, Sycamore, Turkey Oak).	Rupert to lead strategy for invasive species management; to consider strategies for willow and gorse management
	Giles noted that the list of species in the Report is extensive; Ginny suggested prioritising elimination work, for example targeting heliotrope, montbretia, Himalayan balsam, knotweed, cotoneaster. It was agreed that mature non-native trees may be too difficult to remove, but that any saplings eg sycamore, non-native oaks should be removed if they are small enough to pull out by hand or with small implements.	



	It was agreed that the specific suggestions detailed in Rupert's	
	report should be considered further under his direction. Giles reported that the professional sprayer (Jason) will visit	
	the site in early June to treat montbretia, heliotrope and	
	knotweed at a cost of £200.	
	Chris reported that he has started spraying the patch of	
	heliotrope in the bank opposite the upper entrance to the site	
	with commercial weedkiller, and intends to do so again. Giles suggested that since a professional sprayer has been	
	recruited specifically for this task, it should be left to him.	
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	Wendy noted that Sycamore Cottage's strategy is to contain	
	rather than eliminate heliotrope, as it binds soil and provides	
	early pollen for insects. It was agreed that this approach will not be adopted by SWP.	
	not be adopted by SWF.	
	Giles noted that the willows on the top heathland need to be	
	contained; Mattie suggested that agreement needs to be	
	reached concerning gorse management. It was agreed that	
	Rupert's input will be sought for these items.	
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footpaths. It was agreed that before progressing with this idea, the purpose and the style of the product need to be agreed.

There was some discussion, including:

Kim produced some samples from her work which would cost around £7.00 to produce.

Nick pointed out that £4.00 - £5.00 would be the most people would be likely to pay, therefore it would be necessary to scale down the product accordingly

Wendy suggested producing an A4 laminated sheet that could be folded 3-ways into a leaflet, and that could include activities for children

Mattie suggested that items illustrating the history could be obtained from the Archives that Chris H is involved with lain suggested selling the product in St Ives bookshop in their corner dedicated to local sites; an honesty box with leaflets could be installed at the main entrance by the shed.

There was general agreement to explore producing a practical guide of some sort (booklet/leaflet) that can be used by visitors to the site. To include history, map, photos of flora and fauna to identify, with links to QR code

Kim agreed to undertake further research and feed back at the next meeting.

All were asked to look at examples of booklets/leaflets for different organisations for ideas and feed back at the next meeting.

lain raised the question of fundraising goal(s): a specific goal/target is important in gaining support.

Mattie suggested raising funds for attendance at courses.

Kim to explore styles and production costs

All to look for ideas from products of other organisations

10. Any other business

(i) Corridor between Steeple Woods and Penbeagle Nature Reserve: Mattie raised this as a goal for the future. The first step will be to find out who owns the land in question. Lorna M stated that Bolitho Estate owns some of the land. Chris H agreed to investigate further and report back.

Wendy informed the meeting that Cornwall Council liaises with local businesses that will fund projects to create habitats – contact Philippa Hoskin at CC.

Chris H to investigate ownership of land between the two sites.



	It was noted that if/when this project comes to fruition, it will be an appealing goal for fundraising.	
(ii)	Tools: Wendy informed the meeting that Sycamore Cottage will accept donations of any unwanted tools, in any condition. She informed the meeting that she has heard of an organisation whereby tools are reconditioned, eg by prisoners at Dartmoor Prison; she can provide details if required.	
(iii)	Ponds: Chris H reported that the stone dam wall of the Upper Pond has been damaged, apparently wilfully, and that water now runs straight through. He proposed installing a camera (there is one in the shed, but it needs new batteries). It was noted that the camera had been removed from its previous site because issues of privacy had been raised.	Chris to locate camera
(iv)	Beaver Trip: Giles reported that 20 people have signed up for the trip. The £20 fee per individual will be split 50:50 between Cornwall Wildlife Trust and the owner of the site.	
10.	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be the AGM, to be held on Monday 21st October 2024 at the CORE Building (tbc)	
	Giles requested that all members please give some thought to suggestions for an appropriate speaker who may be invited to present at the AGM, prior to the meeting itself. Suggestions to be sent to him.	