

Green Spaces and Footpaths Working Group

30th August 2023, 5.30pm. Venue: Meeting Room, the Coddendam Centre

In attendance: Brenda Hudson, Ian Jeffrey, Jane MacPherson, Nick Mills, John Pelling, Jane Soanes and John Woodcock.

Missing: Donald Burton.

Minutes

1	Membership and introductions.	Introductions made. Although Donald is shown as a member, he has question it, apparently.
2	Chair and admin for the meeting.	Jane S. agreed to chair the meeting and Nick the admin.
3	Survey responses - why we're here.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey response themes reviewed – as they are the groups starting mandate. - Retention of kissing gates vs access for wheelchairs and pushchairs needs to be considered case-by-case, with the default to retain. - Paths do get blocked frequently on Broom Hill. Ian – paths were cut regularly and wider in the past. Lot of work to re-establish width and maintain paths. Action: draw up a list of which paths volunteers are prepared to maintain, when and how. (All). - More seating can be considered but will require landowner permission. Again, to be considered case-by-case.
4	Other inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SWT survey. Action: recommendations by area to be summarised in one place (Nick). - Agreed that working with other groups might come later. - Action: when undertaking maintenance work at sites we should note how we might improve adjoining hedgerows e.g., that at the bottom of Broom Hill and plan to remediate. (All). - Action: seek advice (probably from SWT or the Woodland Trust) as to what to do with hedgerows to improve them. (Jane S.)
5	Confirmation of the working group's scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreed that the groups scope will be limited to the current green spaces, the hedgerows abutting them and the parish's footpaths. We'll start sensibly and work from there.
6	Actions, owners and target dates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Tree Survey needs to be extended to Nucleus and the Burial Ground. Action: Simon Pott and Ian Galbraith to be approached. Nucleus needs work. (Nick) - Footpaths – review of signage/quality of paths. Action: Parish to be 'chunked-up' so volunteers can be assigned an area to walk and provide recommendations. (Nick) - The Nature Walk sign input is with the designers. 5 species will be highlighted per sign and there will be five signs. Agreed that an alternative route along Blacksmith's Lane should be included for those wishing to avoid the bull, cows and calves. Action: to include in redraft. (Jane S). We should celebrate the new signs when installed. - Agreed we should republish the 'two circular walks leaflet', previously supplied by Suffolk CC and add two longer walks, which along with the Nature Walk, makes five in total. Action: provide Jane M. With current leaflet. (Nick) Action: identify two longer walks (Jane M). - For the next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Consider if seating should be installed at the top of Mill Hill. o What the future vision of Coddendam's green spaces might be e.g., where would we like them to be in say 5 or 10 years' time?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If we'd like to invite a speaker to a future meeting
7	<p>Future roles, responsibilities and interactions (meetings, WhatsApp group etc) – guests.</p> <p>Agreement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a Chair, - an Admin to the Group, - when and how we should meet, including date/time of next meeting, - invitations to guests e.g., from SWT, SCCP or other parishes/groups, - how the use of social media to share thoughts/ideas and who should manage it, - how we might attract additional members, - how we should be work with other like-minded groups. 	<p>It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jane S. would be chair. - Nick would remain as admin. - We'd meet every 2-3 months, with the next meeting at 5pm, 15th November. - Set up a WhatsApp Group for us to keep in touch. Action (Jane S.) - Record any alien species*/sightings of merit for Brenda to include in her 'Nature Notes' in the 10VN. - Set up Facebook Group, so residents could be better informed of what is happening. Action: (Nick). <p>* Ian noted that there had been an infestation of Canadian Fleabane (Erigeron canadensis) at the allotments.</p>
8	<p>Messages to residents / how we should communicate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Facebook Site should be added to all other channels available to us. Accepted that people use the channel that best suits them, so we'll need to embrace them all. Action: Coordination. (Nick).