

## Friends of Godney

Record of Board meeting

**Date:** 8th April 2024, 18.00 to 19.30

**Venue:** Village Hall

**Chair:** Sam Lee

**Present:** Sam Lee, Richard Evans, Bridget Gooden, Rob Millard, Jane Peck, Philip Dalton, Martin Heal, Mike Churches, Stephen Fowler,

**In Attendance:** Tessa Munt – Somerset Council

**Apologies:** None

### Introduction

Sam welcomed everyone and gave a brief summary about the progress to date; he also talked about the need to share and allocate tasks and responsibilities as well as decide on the structure of the group.

**Highways:** Tessa confirmed that Somerset Council has accepted responsibility for the trees along the highway side of the Sheppey and some roadside ditches. Trees requiring pollarding have been listed; the work will be completed in April – early May.

Thanks were expressed to Ros Wyke, who acted quickly to obtain this ongoing commitment from the Highways Team.

It was agreed we would make a photographic record of the trees etc throughout the village both before, during and after the works are completed.

### Local Network:

Richard Evans attended a local parish network and was hopeful that collaborative working could follow. The benefits of learning from others and not working in a silo were acknowledged.

### Organisational structure of the group:

There was an informed discussion about how this community group could be structured. The consensus was that the processes should be focused on achieving effective results without any unnecessary complexities or complications, so a straightforward, no-frills, practical solution, rather than a legal structure that would itself required admin, insurance, banking etc.

It was agreed that a community group like this could simply be a working group of the Parish Council, a model that is known to work well locally. We would draft Terms of Reference in consultation with the Parish Clerk, Denise, which hopefully, can be accepted at a Parish Council

meeting. There is a difference between a working group of the council and a stand-alone community group, so the process will require some careful navigation and thought.

### **Name:**

The names 'Task Force and Godney Flood focus' were not the best description of the group bearing in mind that not everyone in the village is comfortable about drawing attention to flooding as a single issue. It was agreed that *Friends of Godney* should be adopted for now, unless anyone has any serious reservations or better ideas.

### **Mapping:**

Sam, Amelia, and Philip are working together to create an interactive digital map of the village and the relevant parts of the Sheppey and adjoining features. It was agreed that a village walk through should be arranged when the map is in final draft form.

### **Communication:**

It was agreed that information about the group, resources and actions should be communicated via the village website. It was agreed that Martin Heal would take a lead on this, the board members would proactively contribute, and Stephen Fowler would assist with admin and communication to the board and wider membership. It was also agreed to use social media and communicate via WhatsApp groups.

### **Meetings:**

It was agreed the Board would meet bimonthly. The board membership/individual contributions to be confirmed at the next meeting after the T of R have been signed off by the Parish.

**Next meeting:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June, to be online as well as in person.

### **Actions:**

1. Photo record of the tree work – Philip Dalton
2. Website and communications – Martin Heal
3. Terms of Reference and record of meeting – Stephen Fowler
4. Mapping – Sam, Amelia and Philip
5. Practical issues such as supporting residents who need immediate help and advice about trees and riverbanks - Sam