

Wickersley Parish Council

Minutes of the Woodland Committee Meeting

Tuesday 21 June @6.30 held at Wickersley Community Centre

Members : Cllr M Scott (Chairperson), P Thirlwall, E Boswell, S Ellis, K Phillips, M Woodhead, Gorse Warden Paul Paddock, Wood Warden Katie Smith, Paul Paddock

In attendance: Cllr M Scott, P Thirlwall, S Ellis

In attendance: J Whitworth (assistant clerk) Ian Kennedy and 1 member of the public

The Chair welcomed all the attendees

428 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Woodhead, Phillips, the wood wardens Katie Smith, Paul Paddock

No apologies were received from Councillor Boswell

429 To resolve if members of the press and public are to be excluded from any agenda items of the meeting due to the nature of the business to be transacted. Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1 (2)

Resolved : there are no items to be excluded

430 To approve minutes of the Meeting held on 30 November 2021

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed as a true record by Councillor Scott

431 To note matters arising from the Meeting held on 30 November 2021

The Chair said that the Management plan will be put before the next Full Council meeting. The question of funding needs to be checked and a bid to be made if required.

Action : Assistant clerk to check how it is all funded and whether this has previously been agreed at the full parish council meeting.

432 To note any issues from member of the public in attendance

There was a member of public in attendance who was welcomed. Issue raised regarding concerns about the state of the Gorse. In particular some oak trees that had been cut down and sprouting and looked in a state, concerns about regular lawnmowing. Concerned that it was being managed like a professional forestry.

Councillor Thirlwall said that the woodland committee are wanting to create a habitat. Ian Kennedy was in attendance and is the arborist who has prepared the monitoring reports for Wickersley Wood and The Gorse. Ian Kennedy confirmed that the nature of the work being carried out is to create a diverse habitat and create space using coppicing. There was a thinning programme which makes more room to allow the trees to grow. Councillor Ellis said that the parish council are wanting to introduce wildlife and want to create a healthy woodland overall. The chair added that if the mowing isn't done then later on shrubs grow and mowing encourages more wildflowers.

The budget was discussed as the member of the public said they would be happy to pay for a survey if one hadn't been done. The chair confirmed that the majority of the budget was spent on remedial repairs especially if it had been windy.

The member of the public was invited to attend further meetings.

433 To appoint a Vice Chair of the Committee

Resolved : Councillor Thirlwall was appointed as Vice Chair

434 To receive information regarding the Volunteers Programme for 2021/2022

434.1 Update on works completed

Nothing to update on

434.2 To note that the volunteer group led by Phil Bates has disbanded

The Chair confirmed that the Volunteers Group led by Phil Bates has now disbanded.

Councillor Ellis suggested that other committees may wish to look at works the volunteers could undertake and identify a monthly plan so each committee could get some assistance. The chair indicated that he could make a query with the probation service to see if they could also assist with any works.

435 To receive a financial update

Councillor Thirlwall asked if instead of a full report if just one sheet could be provided.

Nothing to report financially

436 To review Terms of Reference for the Committee

It was brought up that the terms of reference need amending. Councillor Ellis confirmed that the wording needs changing

Action : Assistant clerk to check if this is the same for other committees

447 To discuss matters relating to Wickersley Gorse

447.1 Report from the Gorse Warden Paul Paddock

Nothing to report as Paul Paddock not in attendance

447.2 Enquiries/complaints from members of the public

Nothing to report from members of the public

447.3 Tree work

Ian Kennedy said there was a poplar tree close to a path, if it fell it would go over the path. This would be in severe weather, it's a quiet site and the chance of causing damage or injury are low. The chair has considered this and the cost benefit analysis and considered it doesn't require immediate action. Quotes obtained from previous assistant clerk range from £1795 to £2800 plus VAT.

Action: Assistant Clerk to obtain quotations

447.4 Monitoring report from Ian Kennedy

Ian Kennedy reported that there are 2 visits a year, one in February and one in August. The last report was after some bad gales so most of the report was about storm damage. The chair asked that this be dealt with as soon as possible. Ian Kennedy said 4 pieces of work to be done in 6 months.

1. An oak tree fallen into a farmers field
2. A silver birch over a path
3. A big oak in the Carr area that wants chopping and laying down
4. A part fallen sycamore wants putting on the ground

It was discussed that there is to be a bid made for an increase to the Woodland budget.

Councillor Thirlwall would like to investigate introducing red kites to the Gorse. Ian Kennedy suggested that we would need the advice of an ornithologist and if the

habitat was right then they would come anyway. He asked for this to go onto the agenda for the next meeting.

Action : Assistant clerk to speak with Paul Paddock and get quotes for work. Also to discuss the red kite suggestion with Paul Paddock.

448 To discuss matters relating to Wickersley Wood

448.1 Report from Wood Warden – Katie Smith

Wood warden not in attendance nothing to report

448.2 Enquiries/complaints from members of the public

Nothing from any members of the public

448.3 Tree Work

Nothing outstanding

448.4 Monitoring report Ian Kennedy

Ian Kennedy – works to be done in Wickersley wood.

1. there is a dead silver birch at the sub station entrance
2. a silver birch has fallen over on a path.
3. To keep on top of the brush cutting of bramble
4. Some removal of more silver birch trees.
5. Bracken should be pulled in June at Wickersley wood and the Himalayan balsam pulling should also be done now. Priority should be given to the Himalayan Balsam pulling.

Action : Assistant clerk to action the pulling of Himalayan Balsam

Action : Assistant Clerk to ask Katie Smith if the work recommended by Ian Kennedy has been carried out

448.5 Minute 423.2 update from Chair

Discussions had taken place previously but nothing further has been heard

449 To discuss Management Plan next steps – Ian Kennedy

The Chair, suggested that a date needs to be set and premises needed. A date to be set and publicised. Looking at putting in the newsletter for September. Also to be put on the Parish Council's facebook. Councillor Thirlwall said this needs to go in the newsletter as it has to be the parishioners. The chair suggested that it would be an idea to go to the site then come back to the community centre to discuss the plans.

Resolved : to meet on 12 October at 5pm to walk around Wickersley Wood then back to the Community Centre at 6.30 pm to discuss the plans

450 To discuss and agree any actions for Woodland Committee Projects

Councillor Ellis suggested a view over Sheffield on the Gorse having a vantage point with directional arrows showing points of interest, a platform with a brass plate on it. Ian Kennedy mentioned the notice boards could do with updating. Councillor Thirlwall is keen to do the vantage points this year.

Action : Assistant Clerk to look at suitable companies who conduct this type of work and liaise with Ian Kennedy

450.1 Small Project fungus

It was decided that another fungus report isn't required this year but it may be of interest if a short piece could be put into the newsletter. Also a query as to whether a leaflet could be put together.

Action : Assistant Clerk to check if a short report / leaflet could be prepared

451 To discuss and agree risk assessment and insurance arrangements

No changes

452 Events

452.1 To agree dates for Woodland Events

Teddy bears picnic

Agreed a date of 16 July 2022 12pm – 2pm

Action : Assistant Clerk, grass to be cut the week before

Bracken and Himalayan balsam pulling

Agreed to postpone bracken pulling and do the Himalayan balsam pulling

Lantern Walk

Agreed date Friday 28 October 2022 at 6pm

Action : Assistant Clerk to book entertainer

453 To note the remaining meeting schedule for 2022 commencing at 6.30pm

Next meeting Tuesday

13 September 2022

Tuesday 29 November 2022

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

ChairpersonCouncillor Mark Scott