

Wickersley Parish Council

Minutes of the Woodland Committee Meeting

Tuesday 29 November 2022 @6.30 held at Wickersley Community Centre

Members : Cllrs M Scott (Chairperson), P Thirlwall, E Boswell, S Ellis, K Phillips, M Woodhead

In attendance: Cllrs M Scott, S Ellis, K Phillips, E Boswell, M Woodhead

In attendance: J Whitworth (assistant clerk), I Kennedy, K Smith, P Paddock

The Chair welcomed all the attendees

454 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Thirlwall

455 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

456 To approve minutes of the Meeting held on 21 June 2022

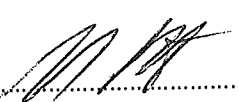
Resolved: The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed as a true record by Councillor Scott

457 To note matters arising from the Meeting held on 21 June 2022

page 1 – nothing to note

page 2 – nothing to note

page 3 – Financial update, the committee had asked for one sheet, this is to be discussed with the finance clerk. Terms of Reference, this has been actioned. The red kite question was discussed, the assistant clerk had contacted the Yorkshire Red Kite group who had said

Signed :  M Scott (Chair) dated 13/11/22

that the red kites will come if the territory suits them, this was confirmed by the Gorse Warden.

page 4 – Katie Smith – confirmed that the work hasn't been carried out

page 5 – notice boards – these are in a poor state, assistant clerk to speak to Mick, who used to be the handyman, to see if anything can be done by way of patching them up for the time being. The fungus piece for the newsletter hadn't been done.

Action : Assistant clerk to look into getting the noticeboards fixed and also look at obtaining a fungus document

458 To receive financial update

Financial document handed out, no money has been spent. Discussion about wood warden payments, the payments were agreed.

459 To discuss matters relating to Wickersley Gorse

459.1 Monitoring report from Ian Kennedy

This was gone through, assistant clerk has compiled a list of work needed and has sent to various companies asking for quotations which haven't been very forthcoming. Cllr Woodhead suggested 2 further companies for assistant clerk to try.

Action : Assistant Clerk to get quotes

459.2 Tree works

There is no emergency work to be done. With regards to the glade work at Wickersley wood the Chair suggested that it might be worth asking probation if they could assist with this. It is understood that one of the issues might be the lack of toilet facilities, consideration to be given to whether it would be worthwhile getting a portable toilet for the period the work will take. The poplar tree work isn't imminent but it won't get any better and will eventually fall. It was decided that if there is enough money in the budget by February to get the work done on this tree.

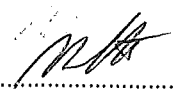
Action : Assistant Clerk to get quotes

459.3 Report from Gorse Warden Paul Paddock

The Gorse Warden has nothing to add. The Chair indicated that we have had a query from a member of the public wishing to go metal detecting on the Gorse but it was agreed to not allow this. It was thought that at some point Rotherham Council had a policy on trees and woodland with regards to this.

Action : Assistant clerk to reply to the member of the public about metal detecting and see if there is a policy

459.4 Introduction of red kites

Signed : M Scott (Chair) dated 13/6/23

This was discussed earlier on in the meeting and they will come to the area if the area is a suitable habitat for them, in particular an area with mature trees, open countryside, sloping ground and an area with a good source of prey.

459.5 Vantage Point

The assistant clerk has looked into this and in particular asked the person who does the carvings in Wickersley wood if this is something they could do and they confirmed it was. The only concern was whether they could be vandalised with them being wood. Assistant clerk to liaise with the wood carver to see if they could be treated in some way that makes them less prone to vandalism. It was discussed whether metal would be a better option, assistant clerk to look into this.

Action : Assistant clerk to contact the wood carver and look at a metal vantage sign

460 To discuss matters relating to Wickersley Wood

460.1 Monitoring report from Ian Kennedy

The report was gone through and there are no problems generally with safety concerns. With regards to the Glade it all needs cutting including the Oak, assistant clerk has made an application to Rotherham Council for a TPO to carry out the work.

460.2 Tree Works

The assistant clerk has compiled a list of work needed for Wickersley Wood and has sent to various companies asking for quotations but have had the same issue as with the Gorse. Assistant clerk will contact the contractors as per Cllr Woodhead's suggestion.

Action : Assistant Clerk to obtain quotes

460.3 Report from Wickersley Wood Warden Katie Smith

Litter picking is becoming a problem, it would be useful to have a ring for the bags when collecting rubbish. It was suggested that if Wayne Munro Smith was contacted at Rotherham Council this is something he can supply. A discussion took place about having an event in Woodlands for litter picking. The assistant clerk is currently looking at volunteers so will look into arranging this. This is also a problem in the Gorse but more near the golf course. The Wood Warden did an event with the Beavers which was enjoyable and also thanked Ian Kennedy for the management meeting as this was really interesting. Discussions over whether to do a guided walk through both Wickersley Wood and the Gorse. Winthrop do a Wednesday walk and if we arrange a walk it might be something they would like to join in with, they already go through the woods.

Action : Assistant Clerk to look into litter picking and guided walks

461 To discuss management plan

The management plan was discussed, and the consultation ends on 30 November, nothing has been heard from anybody with regards the consultation. Thank you to Ian Kennedy for

Signed :  M Scott (Chair) dated 13/10/23

preparing the management plan. The Chair suggested to go ahead with the plan as it is for both the Gorse and Wickersley wood, both of these were agreed by all. Decisions will be made early in the New Year. The entrance to Wickersley Wood was discussed and the general view was that this wasn't overgrown, this was something raised in answer to a comment made to Cllr Ellis about it being untidy. Cllr Ellis propose to re-engage Ian Kennedy to oversee the plan, this is due to him having worked in these areas for many years and his unique knowledge of Wickersley wood and Gorse. All agreed with the proposal to retain Ian Kennedy.

Action : Assistant Clerk to liaise with chair about what works are to be carries out

462 To discuss making a bid for increasing Woodland budget

The Chair confirmed that payment for the management plan had already been agreed. Some of the proposals on the plan are aspirations, eg the noticeboards. There are no big 1 off large pieces of work. The chair will look into a bid for an increase in the woodland budget and will circulate figures to the Woodland Committee. It is highly likely that the costs will go up due to inflation.

Action : Chair to look at figures and distribute to Woodland Committee

463 To discuss Woodland Events

463.1 Lantern walk

This event was a big success, consideration needs to be given about how to manage it. The sound system was not sufficient and some of the children were getting bored. It is not thought that the event needs to be bigger or better. A speaker or loud hailer is needed at the main entrance. There was a discussion about having the main entrance to come in then exit via the middle entrance on Wood Lane. Suggestions of having hot chocolate available on the way out. A meeting is needed in August/September to discuss this, this can be done via teams.

463.2 Bracken and Himalayan balsam pulling

The bracken is in Wickersley wood and should be done late June. Himalayan balsam is in the Gorse and should be done May with a second pull in July

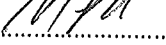
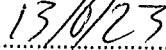
463.3 Teddy bears picnic (already taken place)

This event takes place the last weekend before the schools break up for summer, discussions took place as to whether to change the name of it to a Forage Hunt. This event doesn't need changing.

For Woodland events in general a calendar of events is needed. It was decided that a quarterly walk alternating the Gorse and Wickersley wood would be a good idea. The Gorse Warden carries out a bluebell walk which needs to be advertised


Action : Assistant Clerk to put together a calendar of events and arrange a meeting for Aug / September to discuss the lantern walk

464 To note the next meeting date

Signed :  M Scott (Chair) dated 

The new dates for all meetings are currently being compiled and will be distributed once finalised.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed : M Scott (Chair) dated 13/6/23

