

Wickersley Parish Council

Minutes of the Woodland Committee Meeting

Tuesday 21 March 2023 @6.30 held at Wickersley Community Centre

Members : Cllrs M Scott (Chairperson), , K Phillips, M Woodhead, E Boswell, M Biggin

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

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

The Chair welcomed all the attendees

465 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Biggin (email to assistant clerk seen 22/3/23). The committee was informed that both Councillors Thirlwall and Ellis have resigned as Councillors.

466 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

467 To approve minutes of the Meeting held on 29 November 2023

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true record by Councillor Scott subject to a grammatical error

Action: Assistant Clerk to reprint and have the minutes available for signature at the next full council meeting

468 To note matters arising from the Meeting held on 29 November 2023

Signed  M Scott (Chair) dated 18/3/23

The Gorse Warden confirmed that the date on the events calendar for the second balsam pulling was too soon and needed to be later in the month. This has already gone to print in the newsletter but a facebook post and notices can be put up informing people of the date change.

469 To receive financial update

Financial matters were discussed, there is still some money within the Woodland budget, there has recently been some strong winds so it is advisable to keep some just in case anything needs doing urgently.

470 To discuss matters relating to Wickersley Gorse

470.1 Monitoring report from Ian Kennedy

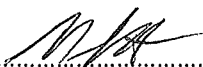
This was gone through. Most of the work is now either in hand or been done. It was advised to hold off the brush cutting until September due to breeding bird season. Strimming will need to be done in April/May. The paths aren't too bad. It was confirmed that a litter pick had been arranged in the Gorse for 1 April 2023. It was noted that the bridge had been repaired. The grass needs a 3 x yearly cut.

Action

Assistant Clerk to inform the contractor to hold back with brush cutting and also to look into when the grass needs the first cut. To arrange for the strimming to be done April/May.

470.2 Report from Gorse Warden Paul Paddock

The Gorse Warden had prepared a document which was handed out to the members. He informed the committee of some concerns he has about instructions which are given to contractors and getting like for like quotes. He suggested a better map is needed as the one used isn't very easy to follow. Also, with regards the spec which is given to the contractors from which to quote from. A suggestion of using what 3 words to locate the areas which need works doing. The Chair suggested getting the cost for getting an ordnance survey map. The accuracy of what 3 words and co-ordinates needs to be looked at also. The chair also suggested reporting back to the committee in June with proposals regarding quotes and spec. The question of whether 3 quotes are needed and it was a question of obtaining more reasonable quotes. The original company who the Parish used to use knew the area well but they are now not as competitive pricewise as some other contractors. It would also be useful to have photographs of the area and/or trees. It would also be helpful to contractors to explain how far away the area is and the difficulty in getting equipment there. A poplar tree in the Gorse was discussed. The owner of a tree is wanting to have it felled, the gentleman was concerned about how large the branches were that went over a path which was well used by the public. The issue is that one of the Parish's trees is leaning onto the tree and if the homeowners tree is cut down then ours will fall. The assistant clerk has obtained a

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

quotation from the contractor who is going to be carrying out the work and the quote is £850 It was agreed that due to the concerns over safety that this work will be carried out.

Action

470.3 Update on works

The poplar tree has now been cut down and the other Gorse work is due to be carried out.

471 To discuss matters relating to Wickersley Wood


471.1 Monitoring report from Ian Kennedy

The report was gone through. A hanging branch which is in the report is now sorted and it was advised to hold off the work in the glade until September. There is a dead Oak near to the stone entrance near to the carving. There is also a partly failed stem which needs to be moved near to the glade. There is also a silver birch which is at low risk of falling, the Chair is comfortable leaving this at the present. There is a rope swing North of the glade which is on a dead branch, the branch and rope swing need to be taken down. There is some garden waste which has been put into the wood, it is near to The Pines. It is advisable to do a letter to all the homeowners who back onto the woods. This should be done annually. There has been some illegal pruning of some trees which are situated near to the sub station, the middle entrance of Wood Lane, the trees are TPO'd and it doesn't look like consent has been applied for and the work done isn't to a great standard. It is advised that this be reported to RMBC to investigate, the Chair suggested that prior to this a meeting should be arranged with a tree officer from RMBC to show them. A concern was raised about paths, it appears that more and more paths have been made in the woods and they are damaging bluebells and also not great for the habitat of wildlife. The chair and wood warden are to look at the paths and let the assistant clerk know so that some notices could be put up and also to inform the local schools. Coppicing will need to be done around the woodland edge, this can be done by volunteers and needs doing November. .

Action : Assistant Clerk to obtain quotes

471.2 Report from Wickersley Wood Warden Katie Smith

The wood warden has prepared a report which was handed to the committee. The wood warden suggested that when Ian Kennedy attends to survey the woods to go round so she knows which trees and other works have been identified as needing doing. A litter pick was carried out on 18th March, Wayne Munro Smith attended and was impressed by the woods and how tidy they were and also by how much noise there was from the birds. A few trees have been noted as needing some work, some of these are ones already identified in Ian Kennedy's report. A tree across one of the paths may actually deter people walking on that path as there is another path

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

next to it. A couple of other trees are identified, assistant clerk will look at these. The noticeboards are also in need of attention, they are rotten and 2 have had to be repaired following the snow.

471.3 Update on works

All the work is due to be completed before the end of March. A litter pick has been carried out.

471.4 To discuss noticeboards

The state of the noticeboards was discussed. There are 4 in Wickersley woods that need replacing and 1 in the Gorse. The chair will speak to other chairs about noticeboards and see if a bid could be put in. We need to see how many in the parish need to be replaced.

472 To discuss woodland events

472.1 Calendar of events including litter picks

The date of the second balsam pulling in the Gorse needs to be later in the month. The Gorse Warden will be doing a bluebell walk on 15th May at 6.30pm. The easter hunt is due to take place on 8th April. No decision has been made as to what this will be as this is usually ran by previous councillors. Events have purchased 100 eggs, concerns that this may not be enough. Woodland have £28 left from events budget so it was suggested to buy some small hollow easter eggs. Assistant clerk will look info this option. Events have a meeting on Tuesday so this will be discussed then. The lantern walk is due to take place in October, there is a meeting in September to discuss this.


472.2 Request from events via recreation to see if woodland wish to take on the teddy bears picnic

It was agreed that woodland would do this event. It usually consists of a forage hunt, some games using the parachute and the children are usually given a bubble wand. This usually takes place when the school breaks up for summer. They break up on 20th July so the event would take place on 22th July.

464 To note the next meeting date

The next date is 13th June 2023

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

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