

# Wickersley Parish Council

## Minutes of the Woodland Committee Meeting

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 @ 6.30pm held at Wickersley Community Centre

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

In Attendance: S Fletcher Deputy Clerk, Mark Scott Chair, P Thirlwall, Sue Ellis, Paul Paddock, Ian Kennedy Wharncliffe consultant, and Cllr Marie Woodhead

The Chair welcomed all the attendees.

### 406. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Phillips, and Councillor Boswell.

### 407. 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.

### 408. To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

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

### 409. To note matters arising from the Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

400.1 Paul Paddock commented that he was pleased members had found the reports on Himalayan Balsam interesting it is an ongoing and in depth regime and in line with comments made perhaps not suitable for the Gorse at this time.

401.3 Councillor Thirlwall commented that he considered the blocks a waste of time and they should be removed. A discussion followed where some members felt that the blocks act as a great deterrent and there had been no recent attempts to trespass through the wood. There are plans to invite a school to paint the blocks to make them more aesthetically pleasing, and contractors can access to carry out tree works as necessary. There are limited options to prevent trespass, ditch work may damage the tree roots and leave no access for contractor vehicles. Following discussion, it is agreed that if trespass and damage take place again the matter be discussed to agree a suitable remedy.

### 410. To receive information regarding the Volunteers Programme for 2021

#### 410.01 Update on works

The deputy clerk reported that the volunteers had been very industrious over the last few months, clearing pathways in the woodland and the Gorse, clearing steps, strimming access points and extending a footpath into the wood to create a more levelled access point for the less mobile users. Works have also been carried out in the Gorse to promote the growth of saplings by removing bramble. Last month work started to install a new set of steps in the gorse and this will be completed in October it is also their intention to carry out works outlined in the management plan of coppicing in the Gorse.

Councillor Ellis asked what works had been planned for the new volunteers as we need to harness their enthusiasm, the chair advised that he would liaise with the deputy clerk to organise a volunteer day to perhaps incorporate a litter [pick and some work in the glade.

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## 410.02 planned works

As outlined above completion of steps and coppicing work in October with a view to replacement fencing in the wood and some coppicing and work on the glade in the new year.

## 411. To receive a financial update

The deputy clerk apologised for the financial report not being available when the agenda was sent out, she explained that the figures for woodland give the impression that the budget is depleted but added that the insurance claim settled for the gates is listed as income and should be taken into consideration.

Wickersley Parish Council Financial Report to 20/09/2021	As at 20/09/2021	Committed to 31 Mar 2020	Total projected to 31 Mar 2021	Budget 2020-21	Surplus/- Deficit projection to 31 Mar 2020	Comment
Gorse - general	47.32	2452.68	2500.00	2500.00	0.00	
Wood - general	2433.33	66.67	2500.00	2500.00	0.00	
Wood & Gorse Wardens	82.50	27.5	110.00	110.00	0.00	
Common Bank Lease	0.00	100	100.00	100.00	0.00	
Woodland Committee Events	0.00	500	500.00	500.00	0.00	
<b>Total Woodland Management</b>	<b>2563.15</b>	<b>3146.85</b>	<b>5710.00</b>	<b>5710.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	

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Date:	22/09/2021														
Time:	14:50:51														
Nominal Activity															
Date From:	01/04/2021										N/C From:	4540			
Date To:	31/03/2022										N/C To:	4540			
Transaction From:	1														
Transaction To:	99999999														
N/C:	4540		Name:	Woodland - Other Income								Account Balance:	-1105.00		
No	Type	Date	Account	Ref	Details	Dept	T/C	Value	Debit	Credit	V	B			
18658	SI	31/05/2021	AVIVA	422R	Insurance payout for Wickersley Wood gate	0	T0	1105.00		1105.00	R	-			
<b>Totals:</b>										1105.00					
<b>History Balance:</b>										1105.00					

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Date:	22/09/2021														
Time:	14:23:36														
Nominal Activity															
Date From:	01/04/2021										N/C From:	5500			
Date To:	31/03/2022										N/C To:	5540			
Transaction From:	1														
Transaction To:	99999999														
N/C:	5500		Name:	Gorse - general								Account Balance:	47.32		
No	Type	Date	Account	Ref	Details	Dept	T/C	Value	Debit	Credit	V	B			
18974	PI	29/07/2021	EARNSHAW	1045P	Materials for repairs to top bridge in Gorse	0	T1	47.32	47.32		N	-			
<b>Totals:</b>										47.32					
<b>History Balance:</b>										47.32					
N/C:	5510		Name:	Wood - general								Account Balance:	2433.33		
No	Type	Date	Account	Ref	Details	Dept	T/C	Value	Debit	Credit	V	B			
18370	PI	22/04/2021	ROTHERH4	942P	Monthly hire charge for concrete blocks	0	T1	80.00	80.00		R	-			
18458	PI	15/05/2021	MKSTREEA	967P	Removal of hanging branches & split beech to make safe	0	T0	1075.00	1075.00		R	-			
18648	PI	25/05/2021	STEVEOLI	998P	Replacement gates at Wickersley Wood	0	T0	1150.00	1150.00		R	-			
18669	PI	30/06/2021	SCREWFIX	1005P	Bolt cutters for woodland volunteer work	0	T1	8.33	8.33		R	-			
18901	PI	02/08/2021	MKSTREEA	1048P	Removal of 2x broken branches in Wickersley Wood	0	T0	120.00	120.00		N	-			
<b>Totals:</b>										2433.33					
<b>History Balance:</b>										2433.33					
N/C:	5515		Name:	Wood - Projects								Account Balance:	0.00		
No	Type	Date	Account	Ref	Details	Dept	T/C	Value	Debit	Credit	V	B			
18649	PI	26/05/2021	STEVEOLI	Cancel	Gorse bridge replacement	0	T0	2200.00	2200.00		R	-			
<b>Totals:</b>										2200.00					
<b>History Balance:</b>										2200.00					

The chair added that the issue with broken branches during strong winds when the trees in leaf had taken up a significant amount of budget.

Discussion followed and it was noted that the project money for the provision of the new bridge in the gorse had come in under budget and the remainder of the project money would be returned to central reserves.

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It was also noted that as Graham Woodcock had retired from his duties the honorarium previously shared between Paul and Graham would be wholly paid to Paul Paddock as Gorse Warden.

**Resolved: that the financial information is approved**

## **412. To discuss matters relating to Wickersley Gorse**

### **412.1 Wickersley Gorse Monitoring Report – Mr Ian Kennedy**

Ian reported that a lot of work has been done in the gorse and the top path that usually causes issues is looking brilliant all credit to the volunteers' efforts. The management of scrubland around Peters patch 3.2 in the report requires brush cutting over the next 3 to 4 months this has been hampered by nesting birds. He added that there is some evidence of several sycamores in poor health, he is not overly concerned, if these die it will open the canopy and create some added space. 3.5 of the report praises the work carried out by the volunteers on one side and recommends the other side of the path would benefit from the same treatment. There are two areas of coppicing recommended in parcels 4 & 13 on the plan that would really enhance the viewpoint, and the left-hand side of the path by the new bridge some have been marked and works can be carried out between now and February he added a felling licence would not be required due to the size and timber volume and debris should be removed as necessary.

Comments were made that the clearance of this area would be improved with the addition of a bench and perhaps a metal relief showing the landmarks that can be identified. The chair indicated this would be discussed later in the meeting and thanked Ian for his report.

The chair and members of the committee wanted to express their thanks for the efforts of the volunteers over this very difficult period and their achievements speak volumes of their dedication and resolve.

### **412.2 Report from the Gorse Warden Paul Paddock**

Paul reported that the new planting appears to have taken although some have lost the protective sheaths, he added that the Balsam pulling appeared to be having an effect in the area concentrated on, there are other areas more inaccessible, overall, a significant improvement. Paul added that the display of blue bells was somewhat disappointing this year adding the attendance at the blue bell walk was also poor. Obviously with the pandemic people are more cautious; however, it is hoped that more promotion will prompt increased attendance. Comments were made that when an events calendar is produced and populated it will give an overarching view for residents of events and activities to become more involved.

## **413 To discuss matters relating to Wickersley Wood**

### **413.1 Wickersley Wood Monitoring Report – Mr Ian Kennedy**

Ian reported that the recommended works indicated on the previous report had overall been completed however, items B and C are to be completed the work on the glade to remove scrub and young trees. In 3.2 of the report Ian indicate that periodically a more detailed inspection is carried out on specific area. This time it was Woodside Court although there is some decay noted on a mature oak no work is recommended at this time, although some ivy needs removing from two trees on this boundary, it is suggested the handymen carry out this task. It was commented that in previous years neighbours are sent letters advising them on unauthorised access etc., it is suggested that this item is put forward for full council to remind all residents that bound parish land. Ian added that the condition of the wood in general is good, and all the works carried out to remedy fallen branches etc have been done professionally. 3.4 of the report identified that three mature trees on the southern boundary

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are in declining health it is not clear what is causing this. The trees may recover but they are in a quiet area of the woodland and there is no requirement for any remedial work at this time. It was noted that the new build dwelling at 26 Wood Lane has been built much closer to the crown of the tree than the original house. There are some works recommended for example coppicing of a hazel close to the gate on first lane. He added that management of the glade has been hampered by breeding birds and the pandemic and it is recommended that the area is brush cut to control the bramble and the young trees whether cut or dug out, those cut should be treated with stump treatment, he added it is important to maintain the young heather and possible record with photographs it's growth. Works recommended are coppicing of two parcels of land in November and December to the rear of 12 and 16 Woodside Court marked with orange paint. An application under the Tree Preservation order is required. Ian Kennedy updated the committee that the management plan for the Woods and Gorse is nearing the end of its 5-year plan and consideration should be given to the production of a new management plan. Discussion followed and agreed the Chair will discuss with Chair of the Parish Council the preferred way to proceed there is also a consultation process involved.

**Resolved:** a bid be submitted to full council

## **413.2 Report from Wickersley Wood Warden - Katie Smith**

Unfortunately, the wood warden was unavailable however, matters have been discussed in full.

## **413.3 Update on aggravated trespass and criminal damage, concrete blocks – Deputy Clerk**

The deputy clerk reported that the blocks in situ had provided a deterrent as there had been no new instances of aggravated trespass, a base coat has applied in readiness for a local school to paint. The members of the committee agreed that this will be pursued by the deputy clerk with a limit of £250 expenditure authorised via the chair.

## **413.4 Overhanging Branches concerns from residents.**

No complaints have been received from residents.

## **414. To discuss and agree any actions for Woodland Committee Projects**

The Chair advised that the deadline for the project bids is 30<sup>th</sup> September leaving the timescale tight for submission he would, however, submit bids for the management plan for the woodland and the Gorse, Ian Kennedy agreed to submit the projected costs. Bid would also be submitted for an additional bench for the view point in the Gorse and the enhancement of the middle entrance point to the wood.

## **415. To discuss and agree risk assessment and insurance arrangements.**

This is a standard item on each Agenda included to ensure that all aspects are up to date. It is noted that prior to the projects a risk assessment is required.

## **416. Events**

416.1 Update Teddy Bear Picnic – the picnic was cancelled unfortunately by the rain. The deputy clerk updated that templates for each event in the parish were being prepared and this event may need rebranding, the location is not suitable for pushchairs or prams, the 'teddy bear' lends itself to younger children. Options to be discussed is family foray, tree party.

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416.2 Lantern Walk volunteers required to lead – the Chair advised he is happy to lead the event although will require assistance, it was suggested councillor Philips may have the relevant knowledge of the lantern walk. Councillor Ellis advise that the route into the wood is illuminated by tea lights in glass jars, where everyone has a sing song the children are given a wand or another type of illuminated token. With the concerns last year about pumpkin debris etc the chair will advise participants of the importance of not leaving litter etc., The event will be promoted on the website and the Facebook page.

## **417 To note the meeting schedule for 2021 Commencing at 6.30pm**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Resolved:** the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm.at the Community Centre.

The meeting

**Chairperson..... Councillor Mark Scott**