



**Minutes of the Woodland Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30 pm held at Wickersley Community Centre**

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

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

In attendance: J Whitworth (Assistant Clerk), Cllr A Bates, I Kennedy, P Paddock (Gorse Warden) K Smith (Wickersley Wood Warden)

The Chair welcomed all the attendees.

**482 To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr Boswell didn't attend and no apologies have been received.

**483 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)**

There are no matters to be excluded.

**484 To approve minutes of meeting held on 12 June 2023**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**485 To note any matters arising from the meeting of 12 June 2023**

Item 477, this item is to be discussed in Ian Kennedy's report.

Signed : 

Councillor Mark Scott

dated : 21/11/23

Item 480.4, a new noticeboard is to be ordered and will replace the one at the main entrance on Wood Lane.

Item 481.1, the teddy bears picnic did not take place due to the poor weather conditions.

**486 To note any issues from members of the public in attendance**

No members of the public in attendance.

**487 To receive financial update**

100	Gorse - general	£165.00	£0.00	£165.00	£2,500.00	£2,335.00
101	Wood - general	£590.00	£0.00	£590.00	£2,700.00	£2,110.00
102	Wood & Gorse Wardens	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£110.00	£110.00
103	Common Bank Lease	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00	£100.00
104	Woodland Committee Events	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£400.00	£400.00
105	<b>Total Woodland Management</b>	<b>£755.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£755.00</b>	<b>£5,810.00</b>	<b>£5,055.00</b>

**488 To discuss Terms of Reference**

This was discussed and the Chair will make a proposal for the next meeting regarding item 10F, this item is to be put onto the next agenda.

**Chair to put a proposal together for the next meeting and Assistant Clerk to ensure the item is put onto the next agenda**

**489 To discuss matters relating to the Gorse**

**489.1 To discuss monitoring report from Ian Kennedy**

3.1 Most of the work has been completed. There is a wind blown oak, this is in a quiet area of the gorse and is a stable tree which will decay over time. This is being used as a bit of a climbing frame, its completely uprooted and the suggestion is to look at this again to get it dismantled when there is some major work happening in the Gorse.

3.2 There are issues with Sycamores dying and it is caused by Armillaria, some are next to paths however it is a relatively quiet site and safety concern is low.

Signed :



Councillor Mark Scott

dated :

21/11/23



- 3.3 With regards to maintenance, the mowing has taken place but the vegetation strip needs to be strimmed. Cllr Bates informed the committee that he has available a large petrol strimmer to assist in this work.
- 3.4 Peters patch, the edges are being encroached with bramble. Traditionally this is cut back 1 metre but will be more now, it should be cut back to the tree line of established trees, the saplings will need removing.
- 3.5 There are no general issues.
- 3.6 The fences and bridges are in good order.
- 3.7 With regards to the infrastructure the viewpoint needs coppicing, it needs cutting back to the treeline, where the old stools are. The committee are wanting to re-visit the prospect of having signage in this area pointing out points of interest.

Cllr Bates said that the Parish Council are looking into a 10 year plan, Ian Kennedy had said that there is a 5 year plan which is aimed to make the most of what we have and the best way would be to suggest if there is anything it be put into the next 5 year plan.

**Action : 3.3 and 3.4 and 3.7 - Assistant Clerk will see if this is something the handymen can do.**

### **489.2 Report from Paul Paddock**

With regards the area known as Peters Patch it is not know the Spec of this, this is something that might be on a plan, Ian Kennedy said he would look to see if he had anything to send through to the Assistant Clerk. The Gorse Warden has been liaising with Anna Chester regarding a Wickersley Walking Festival and has agreed a date for the Bluebell Walk of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

### **489.3 Update on works**

There are no works to update on.

## **490 To discuss matters relating to Wickersley wood**

### **490.1 To discuss monitoring report from Ian Kennedy**

Signed :

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Scott', written over a faint horizontal line.

Councillor Mark Scott

dated : 21/11/23

All the work has been carried out except the scrub clearance in the Glade. Assistant Clerk to arrange for this work to be carried out.

The boundary at Woodside Court, it was noted there was a large beech tree that has some bleeding canker, there is a big limb that needs to be shortened within 12 months, permission will be needed from RMBC.

A parishioner had asked the Parish Council to look at some trees which were overhanging his property. The trees are healthy trees and a few branches are extending over the boundary fence. Work could be done but not necessary, permission from RMBC would be needed. A discussion took place regarding this and it was to keep this under review but to not carry out the work at the present time. The Chair and Assistant Clerk will put a letter together to send to the resident.

There is a fallen tree which is blocking a footpath, it was suggested to leave it where it is.

Unfortunately, there is some Japanese Knotweed in the woods, this is close to the entrance on First Lane. There are a series of treatments, but this cannot be dug up and moved as this is illegal. One option is spray, this is the recognised treatment. The other option is to pull the leaves in a mechanical method. The preferred treatment is spray and Assistant Clerk will ask the contractors we use to see if they have the necessary certificate, this will need doing early Summer next year.

There is a pipe along the bottom of the stream bed, it is not clear why this is there, and this will need looking at. Assistant Clerk to ask the handymen to see if they can find where the pipe comes from.

The paths in the wood are generally not too bad, the path at the First Lane entrance is overgrown with shrubs, hawthorn and elder and this needs to be taken out and cut to ground level. This is a winter job, and the Assistant Clerk will see if this is something the handymen could do.

There are 3 compartment that need to be coppiced, the edges of these are marked with orange paint and everything needs cutting down leaving small stumps. This needs the permission from RMBC.

**Action : Assistant Clerk to get quotes for the Glade. Contact RMBC for permission to shorten the limb of the Beech tree. Assistant Clerk and Chair to compile 2 letters to the residents who have brought up issues. Assistant Clerk to begin investigation for**

Signed :



Councillor Mark Scott

dated : 21/11/23

**contractors who could deal with Japanese knotweed. Assistant Clerk to try and find out about the pipe in the stream. Assistant Clerk to arrange to have the entrance of First Lane cut back. Assistant Clerk to arrange to have the 3 areas coppiced, permission will need to be given from RMBC.**

#### **490.2 Report from Katie Smith**

Whilst looking at an issue that had been reported of quad bikes in the wood a lady had approached the wood warden with regards to overgrown trees to the rear of her property. The lady was concerned that the trees were too large and may come down on her property. Photographs were provided. Ian Kennedy informed the committee that the landowner has a duty of care and that the Parish Council does take this seriously and it is monitored regularly and work does get done. Healthy trees will fall over. All the trees are sound. A detailed inspection of that boundary is due to take place in March 2024, the previous one was done in March 2023. The Assistant Clerk and the Chair will put a letter together to send to the resident. There was some evidence of quad bikes having been in the woods and it is thought that they may have entered via the Winthrop entrance. The fence had been broken but it is understood that this is now fixed. A tree has fallen into the woods, RMBC have been informed as it is their tree. It is not known whether the fence has been fixed although the location is somewhere not easily accessible. The question arose as to whether the Parish Council's public liability insurance covers the woods. Assistant Clerk will check this.

**Action : Assistant Clerk to ask the handymen about that fencing and check the public liability insurance.**

#### **490.3 Update on works**

There is nothing to update.

#### **490.4 To discuss noticeboards**

A bid will need to be put in to replace the rotten noticeboards. The one which was vandalised has been claimed for on the insurance policy and the new one will be used to replace the main entrance noticeboard at the stone entrance on Wood Lane.

Signed :



Councillor Mark Scott

dated :

21/11/23



**Action : Assistant Clerk to order the new noticeboard and have it installed**

**491 To discuss woodland events**

**491.1 Lantern Walk**

The date has been arranged, the posters have been done, this event just needs one post on Facebook. A minimum of 6 volunteers are needed. Light tokens need purchasing, it was decided to purchase glow sticks 200 – 300 items. Last year's entertainer to be contacted to see if she would like to perform again. Bigger speakers will be taken this year. Cllr Scott suggested a litter pick be arranged for the following day.

**Action : Assistant Clerk to order the glow sticks, contact the entertainer, post the event on social media, ask who would be able to volunteer to assist. Assistant Clerk to arrange a litter pick for the following day.**

**Date of next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

Signed :

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Scott'.

Councillor Mark Scott

dated :

21/11/23