



Minutes of the Woodland Committee Meeting

Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 6.30 pm held at Wickersley Community Centre

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

In attendance: Cllrs M Scott, E Harwood, K Davies

Additional attendees: J Whitworth (Assistant Clerk), I Kennedy, P Paddock,
K Smith

The Chair welcomed all the attendees.

504 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted

505 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.

506 To approve minutes of meeting held on 21st November 2023

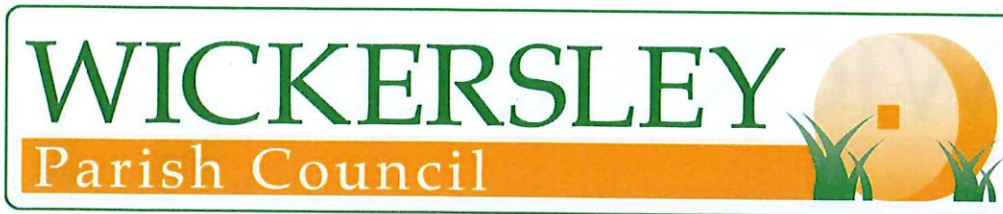
The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

Signed :

Councillor Mark Scott

dated :

7/5/24



507 To note any matters arising from the meeting held on 21st November 2023

There are no matters arising.

509 To note any issues arising from members of the public in attendance

There was a member of the public in attendance who wished to raise concerns about Wickersley woods, in particular the paths. Extra paths are being created which is to the detriment of the habitat. It was asked whether it would be possible to put in a hard surface path. The chair confirmed that the committee are aware of the issue and options will be looked at to minimise this in a way that causes the least destruction to the environment. It is understood that the woods are being used more due to the new estate and children using the woods to walk to school. The chair will look at putting something in the newsletter and bringing awareness to sticking to the paths.

Cllr Harwood wished to raise a matter but it was noted that there wasn't a section for issues for councillors. The chair permitted Cllr Harwood to raise the issue. A request has been made to ask to use Wickersley woods for a small group to do some quiet drumming as part of a mindfulness and wellbeing group. The area they request to do this activity is near to Woodside Court. The chair didn't think that he could officially sanction this but suggested that maybe they use the Gorse. This was suggested and all agreed to allow the group to undertake this activity in the Gorse on a trial basis.

509 To receive financial update

	G	H	I	J	K	L
1 Wickersley Parish Council Financial Report to 31/12/2023		As at 31/12/2023	Committed to 31/03/2024	Total projected to 31/03/2024	Budget 2023/24	Surplus/-Deficit at 31/03/2024

5 Woodland - Other Income		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
7 Total Woodland		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Signed : 

Councillor Mark Scott

dated : 7/1/24



10	Gorse - general	£1,637.50	£800.00	£2,437.50	£2,500.00	-£62.50
11	Wood - general	£1,055.00	£1,600.00	£2,655.00	£2,700.00	-£45.00
12	Wood & Gorse Wardens	£0.00	£110.00	£110.00	£110.00	£0.00
13	Common Bank Lease	£0.00	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00
14	Woodland Committee Events	£94.95	£300.00	£394.95	£400.00	-£5.05
15	Total Woodland Management	£2,787.45	£2,910.00	£5,697.45	£5,810.00	-£112.55

The Chair proposed and it was agreed to get as much of the work undertaken as possible. Assistant Clerk to instruct the respective contractors to carry out the work in the Gorse and Wickersley wood.

It was raised that the wire fence close to the path to Winthrop may need some attention. Assistant Clerk to raise this with the handymen.

Action: Assistant Clerk to ask the contractors to carry out the work in the Gorse and Wickersley wood. Assistant Clerk to raise the issue of the fencing with the handymen.

510 To discuss matters relating to The Gorse

510.1 Report from Ian Kennedy

The last inspection was in August 2023 and the Gorse has fared pretty well. There are some dead sycamore trees which don't affect anything. There is an Oak tree at Peters Patch which needs some branches cutting off. The outstanding work from the last report is due to be carried out namely coppicing of the viewpoint and cutting back the pathway and Peters Patch. There is an issue of some pollution which appears to be iron rusting, the Assistant Clerk has made the Environment Agency aware of this. With regards to the grass cutting, it was suggested this be done during late May. The Himalayan balsam pulling will need to take place early May. The steep path is of some concern as it is slippery.

510.2 Report from Paul Paddock

With regards to the photographic monitoring within Ian Kennedy's report Paul Paddock confirmed he would be able to do this. The bluebell walk is all ready to go, hopefully more people will attend as its part of the walking festival. The committee were also informed about the issue with the top path, the one across the bridge, that it doesn't dry out very well and with all the wet weather recently there was a concern over the wetness.

Signed :

Councillor Mark Scott

dated :

7/5/24



510.3 Update on works

The work in the Gorse will be carried out before the end of the month.

511 To discuss matters relating to Wickersley wood

511.1 Report from Ian Kennedy

There is some outstanding work which will be complete except for the work in the glade. This will have to be put back until after bird nesting season. No new work is needed for safety reasons. There is Japanese knotweed within the wood, the Assistant Clerk has found a contractor who can deal with this. There is a pipe towards the back of Woodside Court which is billowing water, this is intermittent which suggests a pump is being used. This is a matter which needs to be reported to the Environment Agency to investigate. The noticeboards are now of poor quality, this is an item on the agenda which will be discussed. There is some tree pruning waste to the rear of a property on Wood Lane, the homeowners need to be sent a letter asking them to remove the branches from within the woods. With regards to the paths, this was discussed earlier. It was suggested by the Chair to maybe have some sort on public information drive and possibly put something in the next newsletter and on the website asking people to be respectful of any blocked off paths.

511.2 Report from Katie Smith

There has been a lot of rain and mud in recent months. A report had been made to the Assistant Clerk about the pollution in the Gorse river bed. The paths in the woods have already been discussed but it does appear that more children are using the woods to walk to school.

Action : Assistant Clerk to report the pipe in Wickersley woods to the Environment Agency. Assistant Clerk to write to the homeowners regarding the tree branches in the woods. Assistant clerk to get prices for Japanese knotweed treatment.

512 To discuss small project for notice boards

The chair proposed to go ahead and put in a bid for a small project and this was agreed by all the committee in attendance.

Signed :

Councillor Mark Scott

dated :

7/5/29



Action : To proceed with an application to full council for a small project for the noticeboards

513 To discuss Volunteers

The chair informed the committee that by not having any volunteers some work volunteers could undertake is having to be paid for. The wood and Gorse would benefit from volunteers who have the necessary skills to carry out the tasks which could include balsam pulling, litter picking, maintenance of pathways etc. Cllr Harwood asked about a Corporate volunteer scheme, it doesn't appear that this is something in place at the present time.

514 To discuss woodland events

514.1 Easter Event

The assistant Clerk asked whether some seeds could be purchased to give to the children to plant and this was agreed by the committee members in attendance. The committee agreed to purchase some props for the event. It was agreed that subject to the weather to incorporate the sculptures within the event.

514.2 Teddy Bears Picnic

Cllr Harwood confirmed that the plans are all drawn up and that games and stories are planned together with parachute games. Everything is in hand.

Action : Assistant Clerk to purchase props for the easter event and prepare the event to include the sculptures

515 To consider and agree business planning items for business plan

The blue sky thinking event was discussed. The Chair went through the suggestions and recommended putting on hold more sculptures and walking leaflets until there is a solution with the paths so as not to increase footfall any further. The top path in the Gorse could do with some attention, it was decided to ask the new grounds and maintenance contractors to have a look at the path for advice. The viewpoint will be cleared and the idea of putting in an information board has been looked at previously. The chair would like to

Signed : 

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dated : 7/5/24



take forward to Gorse path and the viewpoint information board. This was agreed by all.

Next date of meeting 7th May 2024

Signed :

Councillor Mark Scott

dated :