

Terms of Reference of the Natural Environment Committee

July 2024

Responsibilities

1. To champion the nature, quality, diversity and conservation of the natural environment within the Parish, in particular but not limited to:
 - the Village Pond
 - the trees and understorey within the Recreation Area (notwithstanding any new development)
 - other trees and land owned by the Parish Council (land at junction of Main Street and St Nicholas Croft, land near to 149 Main Street)

(see also 'Aims and Objectives' below)

2. To oversee the management of all Parish Council owned trees including the provision and completion of an annual arboricultural Health & Safety risk assessment.
4. To communicate activities so as to improve the local community's understanding and knowledge of work undertaken to maintain and improve the natural environment of the Village. To encourage volunteers to assist with physical activities. (The Newsletter and the Parish Council website comprise just two of the media that will be utilised.)

Committee Composition

The Committee shall consist of:

Not more than 8 voting members, including one member of the Parish Council

The Committee will elect from amongst its number a willing Chair.

Meetings

The Committee shall meet four times a year, and shall be open to the public (Village Hall, cost covered by PC)

A quorum comprises of 50% of voting members and not less than three.

In the event of an equality of votes, whether he or she has exercised an original vote the Chair elected by the Committee shall have a second and casting vote.

The Committee shall adopt the Code of Conduct of the Parish Council

Budget

£250.

Amendment to Terms of Reference

The full Parish Council may amend the terms of reference with one month's written notice.

Aims and Objectives

The primary objective of the NEG is to ensure that Village areas are maintained to the highest standards. In doing so it needs to be mindful in order to avoid detrimentally affecting the environment and wildlife within.

1. To maintain and upkeep in an appropriate manner the village pond and associated areas surrounding it.
2. To ensure the village pond, seating areas and banks are clean, litter free and maintained to a high standard for the benefit of all villagers, visitors and wildlife
3. To ensure malignant weeds and similar are removed from the banked areas of the pond.
4. To ensure resident and visitors are aware that the Pond albeit a delightful area to spend time is primarily a wildlife area and that respect for the wildlife is maintained in a manner which both can co- exist harmoniously. Wildlife and nature are not always tidy is paramount.
5. To ensure correct planning is gained and expertise sought to cut and prune bushes, trees and other wild flowers within the Pond area. Particular attention will be required to nesting times for all species that live or use the pond and pond banks. Tree, bush and other green debris will be removed from the site. Some larger tree cuttings may be drilled and left on site to attract insects such as ladybirds etc
6. To use committee members expertise in flora to ensure specific flowers and plants are added to the pond to attract insects bees etc that are a vital part of the pollination and development of a healthy pond and grassland.
7. To work in association with other agencies Yorkshire water, RSPB, Wildlife trust, local council and the college to maintain the pond area to the highest possible standards.
8. To fund raise and use other funding to ensure work is undertaken to maintain the pond under the guise of the Natural Environmental Group.

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
1	19/08/2021	Adopted by the Parish Council meeting of 19 th August 2021. Minute reference 8.3 page 63 refers.
2	18/07/2024	Resolved that the Terms of Reference be adopted with just one change, i.e. that the second bullet point under Responsibilities be changed from "the trees within the Recreation Area" to "the trees <i>and understorey</i> within the Recreation Area". Minute reference 8.2 page 166 refers.