

ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the NATURAL ENVIRONMENT GROUP (NEG)

held on Thursday 15th July 2021 at 6pm in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Lisa Marriott (Chair)
Cllr. Julie Barber
Jo Fell

Jan Bennett
Kathryn Nolan

Elizabeth Dobie
Cllr. Simon Peers

In attendance: Keith Langley (Parish Clerk)

The meeting started with introductions.

1. Election of Chair.

Lisa Marriott was proposed as Chair and there being no other nominations, was duly elected.

2. Apologies for absence.

David Hartley.

3. Declarations of interest.

None.

4. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 24th June were accepted as a true record.

5. Consent to share email addresses between members.

Everyone agreed to disclosure of their email addresses to other members of the group.

6. Terms of Reference.

The Terms of Reference were considered, these raised several queries and discussion points as follows;

- Clarification of the budget relating to trees would be sought.
- Ownership of the land near to 149 Main Street needed to be clarified.
- Confirmation was needed of which trees were included in the terms of reference.
- Maintenance of verges with respect to litter. There was a suggestion that provision of bins be investigated and that it be established who cuts the verges. It was noted that the members of the group were not expected to litter pick but would report as necessary to the Council (there were concerns of fly-tipping down Chapel Lane). There was discussion about the best time of year for volunteers and an appropriate address for volunteers to report to.
- There was a query about whether the group needed a treasurer. The Clerk produces financial reports for the Parish Council and would ensure the Group were kept informed. There was a query about whether the Parish Council could spend the budget. Cllr. Peers explained that the Parish Council retained statutory powers to take financial decisions but there would need to be exceptional circumstances for the Group's budget to be used.
- Frequency of meetings was discussed with meetings in alternate months being put forward. The next one would be in September. The best time of year to do the pond would be in September.

- There would be an agenda item for the next meeting to consider the budget. The Group could apply for grants and engage in fund-raising (in consultation with the Parish Council). The Parish Council can claim back VAT.

Summary of actions:

- Clarify land ownership where necessary.
- Verge maintenance – establish who is responsible.
- Establish the frequency of tree inspections.
- Clarify how much budget remains.

7. To note the areas which need maintenance.

- **Pond maintenance**
Pond maintenance would be an agenda item for the next meeting
- **The trees within the Recreational Area**
It was noted that David Hartley had volunteered to take the lead on this at the previous meeting.
- **Other trees.**
Maintenance to be scheduled for the winter months.

Dates of future meetings for 2021:

16th September 2021 at 6pm at the Village Hall prior to which, there would be an on-site meeting of members of the Group at the pond which the Chair would organise.

Signed

Chair
16 September 2021