

ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the NATURAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (NEC)

held on Thursday 17th November 2022 at 6pm in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Jan Bennett (Chair)
Cllr. Julie Barber Jo Fell Kathryn Nolan

In attendance: Keith Langley (Parish Clerk) and Cllr. Kathryn Smith (latter part of the meeting).

1. Appointment of Chair.

In the absence of the Chair, Jan Bennett agreed to chair the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence.

Lisa Marriott.

3. Declarations of interest.

None.

4. Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

5. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 20th October 2022 were accepted as a true record and it was agreed that matters arising be dealt with under the appropriate agenda item headings.

6. Recreational Area

Since the August meeting with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), Jan and Kathryn had been looking at bird box and bug house prices, Jan had looked in Wilko and in the Yorkshire Wildlife Catalogue, Kathryn had looked on the website of the Royal Society for Protection Of Birds. There were different ones to choose from with prices of bird boxes starting from £10 and roosting pockets from £4.50. They had a special offer of free delivery during November. She had also looked at CJ Wildlife who do National Trust birch trunk open nest boxes with tree bark covering from £9.99 and insect boxes from £4.99. It was noted that this was the best time of year to put these up. It was agreed that Kathryn be given a budget of up to £50 to spend on such things. Bat boxes were also discussed, these would be considered at another meeting as there was less urgency to get them up.

The committee discussed a recent e-mail which had been circulated by a local resident who had organised a little pick. Attached to the e-mail was a photograph of all the bottles and cans which had been collected from the wooded area. It was agreed that the situation would be monitored.

There was also discussion about the recent tree report which had highlighted some issues which needed attention within three months. Three quotations would be needed, however this was outside the budget and terms of reference of the Committee and would be considered by the Parish Council.

7. Land Adjacent to 149 Main Street

It was noted that the adjacent property had still not be put up for sale. Jo had spoken to the person who produces the newsletter. She had drafted an article and circulated a copy to the meeting for consideration (the submission deadline being the next day, the 18th). This article made reference to the plans for the horse chestnut trees on this land thus allowing residents the opportunity to comment prior to any work being done. The Committee were happy for the article to be submitted unamended. It was estimated that's the wild flower seed would cost £30 to £50.

8. Pond Area

The tree work had been done the previous Monday (14th). The tree surgeon had done a good job and had removed waste from the site or shredded it. In terms of ongoing maintenance, little further work needed to be done other than keeping on top of the reedmace. Overhanging branches had been cut back and more light could now get through. The willow saplings removed earlier in the year had not returned. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

9. Date of next meeting

19th January 2023 in the Village Hall. It was noted that the Parish Council wished to move the start of their meetings to 7:30pm and it was agreed that future Committee meetings would start at 6:30pm to minimise the time the Clerk was waiting between meetings (in her absence, the Chair, Lisa, had confirmed her willingness to agree to this change).

The meeting closed at 6:26pm.

Signed

Chair
19 January 2023