

# ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

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

held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 6:30pm in the Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** Jan Bennett (Chair)  
Julie Barber Peter Christopherson Jo Fell  
Steve Bassford

In attendance: Keith Langley (Parish Clerk).

### 1. Apologies for absence.

Lisa Marriott and Kathryn Nolan.

### 2. Declarations of interest.

None.

### 3. Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

### 4. Minutes of the last meeting.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be accepted as a true record and it was agreed that the Chair sign the minutes.

### 5. Recreational Area.

The Clerk had not yet contacted City of York Council regarding the lack of reference numbers on trees in the Recreational Area on the interactive tree map. Steve had spoken to the lecturers at the College and confirmed that tree surveys were an official part of the syllabus of some courses. The College has had a copy off the tree report. It had been agreed at the July meeting that the undergrowth beneath the trees on the boundary of the Recreational Area be left as a habitat for wildlife. Some of this undergrowth was seven metres thick and it was felt that some control measures were necessary to prevent encroachment on to the Recreational Area whilst still respecting the decision of the July meeting. The College were buying a wood chipper. Trees had been ordered and would be coming in November and the College had stocks of Hawthorne and Hazel. It was agreed that the agenda for the next meeting should focus on the Recreational Area.

### 6. Village Green (Land Adjacent to 149 Main Street).

30<sup>th</sup> September was the agreed date for a working party to meet and plant bulbs. Jo had done the costings. Fritillary was £20 for a hundred, other bulbs considered were bluebells narcissus and snowdrops. It was agreed to spend £80 on the first batch of bulbs. The tree would be in by winter. Jo would ring the Yorkshire Arboretum the following Monday regarding meadow hay and Steve would send them an email. Concern was expressed that someone had sprayed weed killer around the tree stumps, it was not known who had done this or what type of weed killer had been used. Peter would make enquiries of the local residents.

### 7. Pond Area.

The Committee wanted to keep this area as natural or as possible whilst recognising the amenity value of the pond to the local residents and there were concerns about encroachment similar to those about the undergrowth in the Recreational Area and that this would eventually turn the pond into a bog garden. Clearing work would be done at the end of October and it was hoped that the loosestrife would pull up with the roots attached. It was noted that there was a green patch in the pond which the ducks were using to sit on, Jan and Steve would investigate this. The Committee had heard nothing further from the student who was carrying out the survey of invertebrates, the proposed clearance

work might affect the results of the survey. Steve was making internal enquiries within the college about this.

**8. Date of next meeting.**

Having advanced the September meeting by a month, it was agreed to do likewise for the meeting which would have taken place in November and therefore the next meeting would be on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 6:30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 6:15pm.

Signed

Chair  
19 October 2023

DRAFT