

# ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

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

held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 6pm in the Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Kathryn Nolan (Chair)  
Jo Fell Peter Christopherson Kathryn Nolan

In attendance: Keith Langley (Parish Clerk).

### 1. Apologies for absence.

Jan Bennett, Julie Barber and Lisa Marriott.

### 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 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 be accepted as a true record and it was agreed that the Chair sign the minutes and that matters arising be dealt with under the appropriate agenda item headings.

### 5. Recreational Area.

The previous meeting had discussed hedging packs, bird boxes and tree strategy. There was discussion about the tree strategy and ensuring that there is an audit trail. Although tree work had been carried out, the triannual tree inspection report wasn't easy to follow as the scale of the map made it difficult to identify each tree. The Clerk would ask the tree inspector to supply a larger scale map of the trees so that each tree could be identified. There was uncertainty regarding the work which had been carried out. The invoice from the tree surgeon stated that one lime tree had been pollarded and that one pine tree had been felled. It was agreed that the invoice was correct regarding the lime tree but the pine had not been completely felled. The Clerk would seek clarification from the tree surgeon.

The previous meeting had discussed ordering a free copse pack of thirty trees from the Woodland Trust. The deadline was August, subject to availability. Kathryn agreed to order a pack and if the application is successful the trees will be delivered in November. There would be community engagement using the newsletter and direct engagement with the residents whose properties adjoin the recreational area. Any trees planted could be moved later (before they became established) if replacements were needed for existing trees that are showing signs of disease/damage.

### 6. Land Adjacent to 151/153 Main Street.

Since the March meeting, the two chestnut trees had been removed following an inspection by the City of York Council tree officer who had raised no objection to the application. Following the removal of the trees, the Clerk had received emails from the daughters of the person who had planted them. After consultation with the Committee, the Clerk had sent a response addressing the issues that they had raised. A further letter has been received and it was agreed that the Clerk would draft a response and circulate to the Committee members for comment. Jo had spoken to the YCC tree inspector regarding a suitable replacement tree, and it was agreed to get something which was already a decent size, e.g. a native crab-apple or a cockspur thorn and in a pot which could be looked after until ready to plant. The wildflower seed had already been bought. Jo had done the first cut and since then someone else had cut the grass.

**7. Pond Area.**

The additional (three) bird boxes would be fitted later in the year. The pond was looking good and now that the trees had been reduced, it was hoped that this would reduce the amount of leaf litter. The next meeting would review water levels. A student of Askham Bryan agricultural college had sent an e-mail requesting permission to carry out a survey of insect species in the summer. It was agreed that permission be given and that the student be asked to share their findings with the Committee.

**8. Any Other Business.**

None.

**9. Date of next meeting.**

20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 6:30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 6:37pm.

Signed

Chair  
20 May 2023