

ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

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

held on Thursday 19th January 2023 at 6:30pm in the Village Hall

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

In attendance: Keith Langley (Parish Clerk).

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 17th November 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

Kathryn had bought some nest boxes and brought some of these to the meeting. There were four birch ones with different size entrance holes drilled to attract different species. There were two roosting pouches and one shedding type. It was noted that some trees mentioned in the recent tree report needing cutting or felling and this would inform the locations of the nest boxes. Ideally, the nest boxes needed to be one and a half to two metres off ground level and facing north-east. It was agreed to meet at the Recreational Area at 10am on Saturday 28th January 2023 to look at the trees and decide on nest box locations and a poll could be carried out. It was noted that the nest boxes should not be attached to the tree using a nail, washing line being considered more suitable. The nest boxes needed to be mounted with a slight tilt so that rain water can drain away. The fruit trees might be suitable for the small nest boxes. Kathryn would be reimbursed for her expenses.

7. Land Adjacent to 149 Main Street

An article regarding proposals for this land had appeared in the newsletter and there had been no objections to the trees being cut. There had been a query about the wild flower meadow. The nearby property had been unoccupied since November. Action needed to be taken by the end of March and it was agreed to set a date for the tree work to be done, i.e. 18th March 2023 which would allow final arrangements to be discussed at the next meeting on the 16th. Jo would bring a chainsaw, Lisa would publicise this using the WhatsApp group and if there was a newsletter before that date, there would be an appeal for helpers. Jo volunteered to do the newsletter article and to get the seed. A new tree would be bought, this would be a small native species such as a rowan.

8. Pond Area

Little needed to be done and it was agreed to keep an eye on it and maybe have a look later in the year. The summer meeting could start by meeting by the pond. This was the first year since the work was done, one tree may need pollarding. The ducks and a moorhen were back. There was still some money left in the budget and it was agreed to order a couple more nest boxes which could be put up in the summer.

9. Date of next meeting

16th March 2023 at 6:30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7:02pm.

Signed

Chair
16 March 2023

DRAFT