

# ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

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

held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 6pm in the Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Lisa Marriott (Chair)  
Cllr. Julie Barber Jan Bennett Jo Fell  
Kathryn Nolan Cllr. Simon Peers

In attendance: Keith Langley (locum Parish Clerk)

### 1. Apologies for absence.

David Hartley and Cllr. Kathryn Smith. The resignation of Elizabeth Dobie from the Committee was noted.

### 2. Declarations of interest.

None.

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> July were accepted as a true record.

### 4. Revised Terms of Reference Village Pond

Revised terms of reference had been circulated taking into account the discussion at the previous meeting.

- **The land near 149 Main Street.**

A search of Her Majesty's Land Registry records suggested that the land was not registered. There was discussion about the history of this land. It had once been a pond which had since been filled in and it was noted that a previous attempt to fence off this land had met with much opposition from local residents. It was therefore felt reasonable, based on verbal historic evidence, to assume that this was Parish Council land and worth inclusion in the Terms of Reference of the Committee. The Clerk circulated recently taken pictures of the trees on that land, future pruning of these trees may be needed. This would be an item for discussion next time.

- **Tree Inspections.**

It was noted that the tree on the land on the corner of Saint Nicholas's Croft had recently been cut and that David Hartley was making arrangements with the college to carry out tree inspections trees in the recreational area as a project for the students.

- "Verges, with respect to litter" had been removed from the list of responsibilities as this was the responsibility of City of York Council although it was within the remit of the Committee to promote good behaviour with respect to litter and to encourage litter picks.
- "The Committee shall meet 4? times a year" had been changed to "The Committee shall meet alternate months".
- "TBA" under budget had been changed to "£800".

The terms of reference would be reviewed regularly in line with the Parish Council's review of such documents annually at the May meeting.

### 5. Village Pond

Each member of the Committee was asked in turn for their comments following the on-site meeting by the pond on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Comments included

- Taking up the trees growing at the front of the flag area.
- Leaving the water level as it is.
- An observation that irises have taken over.

- Retaining its pondiness.
- Reduction of the height of the trees at the back by a canopy lift and taking a couple out to thin it.
- Phased pollarding, about a third at a time.
- Putting marginals in.
- Clearing the right-hand end in front of benches so that the ducks can be seen.
- Removal of willow saplings and other saplings.
- Reduce vegetation in front of the bench and plant replacements to prevent growth of unwanted plants.
- Maintaining balance.

It was agreed that a working party be organised to remove the saplings. This would be on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 10am. In the event of the weather being unsuitable then this would be done on the following Saturday. This would allow the work to be done before the pond level made access difficult.

This would be advertised on the notice boards, Facebook, the website and by word of mouth. Volunteers would be encouraged to bring a garden fork and/or a spade and to wear wellington boots and gloves.

The cuttings would then be taken to the tip – a licence might be needed.

Kathryn agreed to put together an advertisement and send to Simon.

Committee members could bring family members to help.

The following other actions were agreed;

- The Clerk would complete the necessary documentation to get permission to carry out the tree works.
- David would ask the college if they would be willing to assist.
- The Chair would pursue quotations.

It was noted that Askham Richard had obtained lists of indigenous marginals from Sheffield University.

## **6. Meeting with Askham Bryan College.**

David had liaised with Askham Bryan College who had agreed to undertake tree inspections in the Recreational Area as a project for their students. He had proposed expenditure of £100 for tree work. It was noted that there was an offer of free trees to commemorate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee from the Lord Lieutenant and from the Woodland Trust. These being whips.

## **7. Budget**

It was noted that the Parish Council would consider its 2022/23 budget before the end of the year and there would therefore be an agenda item next time to consider the NEC budget when the Committee would have a clearer understanding of likely costs. There was £505 left in the budget following the tree work on the corner of Saint Nicholas's Croft.

## **Dates of next meeting**

18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 6pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 18:40

Signed

Chair  
18 November 2021