## **ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL**

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

held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 6pm in the Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Lisa Marriott (Chair)

Cllr. Julie Barber Jan Bennett Jo Fell

Kathryn Nolan Cllr. Kathryn Smith

In attendance: Keith Langley (Parish Clerk)

### 1. Apologies for absence.

David Hartley and Cllr. Simon Peers.

### 2. Declarations of interest.

None.

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> September were accepted as a true record.

### 4. Updates

#### i. Recreational Area

David Hartley had sent a report in his absence. This advised that the students must plan and deliver a project proposal first as a tabletop exercise on a fictional site and once they have demonstrated an understanding of the concepts, can consider an actual project.

# ii. Pond clearance of 23rd October 2021

The chair reported that volunteers had done a sterling job and done an amazing amount of work. The self-seeded saplings had been cleared, some of which required a considerable amount of effort to dig them out. Three builder's sacks were filled with what had been removed. The deadline for the next village newsletter was the 19<sup>th</sup> of November (the next day). The chair would circulate a draft article for comment which would also feature photographs. Weather conditions had been ideal, the planting of indigenous marginal plants discussed as an option to make the pond more attractive given that the water level is sometimes low. Jan agreed to check the water level on a monthly basis. The chair agreed to circulate links to the Environmental Trust website.

### iii. Tree works.

The chair reported that she had obtained a couple of quotations. Roger Mawson had met the Chair by the pond and helped to draft specifications (these had suggested letting more light in, reduction of leaf drop into the pond and removal of chippings). Appreciation for his help doing this was noted by the Committee. One of the quotations was for £500 and aligned with the specifications (this contractor already having recently done work in the Parish). The other quotation was for £636 which included work additional to specifications (including removal of a small tree). This contractor had suggested thinning and crown lifting (they don't do crown reductions) and the coppicing of a willow. Quotations from two other contractors were still awaited. It was agreed to go with the quotation for £500 unless others come in lower and in the meantime planning permission would be sought using the specifications provided.

# iv. Commemoration the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Committee noted that the Parish Council was considering planting trees in the recreational area to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The trees would be planted at the entrance to the recreational area and would be whips. The Committee expressed a view that the trees in the wooded area be better developed and that the budget makes provision for this. This would be considered further at the January meeting.

# v. The land near 149 Main Street.

The chestnut trees on this land need shaping, Jo agreed to take a look at them and this would be a discussion item next time. Jo suggested making this land into a wildlife area (managed to ensure that

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the line of sight for motorists was protected). City of York council would have to be instructed not to include this land in their grass cutting schedule. The Committee also discussed making the area near to Saint Nicholas' Croft a wildflower area.

# vi. To agree a budget for 2022/23.

£500 of the 2021 budget would be spent on the pond. This was a one off expenditure and it was felt that £250 should be sufficient for 2022.

## Dates of next meeting

20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 6pm at the Village Hall. The agenda would include an item to consider an information display board showing the wildlife which can be seen at the pond.

The meeting closed at 18:37

Signed

Chair 20 January 2022

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