

# ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

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

held on Thursday 24 July 2025 at 6:30pm in the Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** Jan Bennett (Chair) Jo Fell Kathryn Nolan  
Julie Barber  
Steve Bassford Laura Hardie

In Attendance: The Clerk.

**1. Apologies for absence:.** Peter Christopherson

**2. Declarations of interest:** None.

**3. Public Participation**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**4. Minutes of the meeting of the Natural Environment Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025.**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 (52-53) having been circulated, be approved and that the Chair be authorised to sign subject to names of individuals being removed from item 9. The fourth sentence would be changed to "It was noted that *one of the Parish Councillors* keeps bees . . . ". The last three sentences would be changed to "Julie would ask someone she knew regarding flowers. Another avenue which could be explored was to develop links with course tutors *such as the Level 3 course manager for Land and Wildlife*. Laura agreed to explore links with York University. It was noted also that *the person who cut the grass in the Recreational Area* was involved with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (Jan was also a member)."

There were no matters arising.

**5. Recreational Area.**

The wildflower seeds which Jan had sown had failed, probably due to the dry weather. Students from the college had installed the bird boxes, and Steve would liaise with a colleague to recommend a suitable location for the bat box. Planting in the copse was well established and any decision on additional planting and would be left until September. The creation of bug hotels in the copse was discussed as a potential future project.

**6. Pond Area.**

The water level was down but there were still ducks on the remaining water and ducklings were known to go into the garden of the property next door. There was considerable growth of purple loosestrife and it was agreed that the annual clearance would be carried out on a Saturday in October. As the next meeting is not until September, provisional dates of 4<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> were suggested. The date would be advertised in the newsletter and via the village WhatsApp (nearer the time).

The Committee then discussed the newsletter article. It was agreed that Jo and Kathryn would draft an article focussing on plants and actions gardeners could take in the autumn to encourage pollinators.

## **7. Village Green.**

Jan had looked at the village green earlier in the day and noticed there were a lot of horse chestnut saplings. Jo agreed to see if they could be pulled out easily, and if not, would dig them out. The grass had not been cut for a while and dock leaves (or similar) were growing where the tree had been removed. It was agreed that Jo would order more bulbs (native daffodils) for additional planting in the autumn,

## **8. Land at junction of Main Street and Saint Nicholas' Croft.**

The choisya had grown back and a few brambles were coming through. Laura would ask a neighbour to keep an eye on the brambles. The grass was suffering from the prolonged spell of dry weather. A big clearance - like the one carried out earlier in the year – may need to be done every two or three years.

## **9. Plans for next year.**

There was discussion about having a stall at the 2026 village spring fair, possibly with plants and propagation advice, with support from the college. There was discussion about installing an information board near the pond – similar to the board at the entrance to the recreation area, although it was noted that permission may be required. The study of invertebrates in the pond carried out by a student of the college a couple of years ago would be useful. Laura offered to create a draft for review, including information about the seasonal variation to water levels and possibly incorporating QR codes to help identify plants and wildlife.

## **10. Date of next meetings.**

18<sup>th</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> November, both at 6;30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7:15pm.

Signed

Chair  
18 September 2025