



MELWOOD CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of Committee Meeting No 63

WEDNESDAY Sept 6 2017 7.45 pm

Green Room, Meldreth Village Hall

Attendees: Graham Borgonon (GB)-Chair for meeting, David Smith (DS)-Treasurer, Bruce Huett (BH) - Hon Sec, John Richards (JRI), Jim Reid (JRei), Peter Lake (PL)

Visitor: Bryony Davies (CC)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Clare Crossman.

2 MINUTES JUNE 2017-

Agreed after amendment: David added as present and as Chair (not Graham); Sept 6th added to DONMs

3 ACTIONS

Bruce reminded members that it was important that he received details of training and certification of members for insurance purposes. JRI said that he had done First Aid training with Everett on 9 April 2016 as well as his chain saw qualifications.

4 COUNTY COUNCIL TRANSFORMATION TEAM

Bryony Davies, Senior Transformation Officer Cambridgeshire County Council, was welcomed to the meeting. She introduced herself and the work of her team. She had previously met at the wood with GB, JRei and Susan Van de Ven (County Councillor) on 27th June 2017. Part of her role is to assess how LNRs are used, their links to the local community and the support that they might need. She had four main questions for the committee:

1 How well is the LNR used?

The team described how the village is used on a regular basis by:

- villagers, especially dog walkers;
- users of the footpath;
- the primary school

The role and use of the information board was explained.

The position of meadow ownership and Rastells land was explained.

2 What events are held related to the wood?

The team described the regular events held for the community in the wood mentioning the bird walks, music and poetry events, barbeques and special events for the primary school. The recent report in Meldreth Matters by the school on the summer successful den building event was given to Bryony.

3 What barriers are there to use of the wood?

- a) minor health and safety issues;
- b) muddy paths
- c) access via kissing gate difficult for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and buggies (although there is alternative easier access via the British Queen pub grounds
- d) litter/dog mess, although this is now small and the group have a rubbish collection rota;
- e) miss use of the "fire spot", although has not been significant in recent years;
- f) push bikes have been seen riding in the woods;

4 Is there anything more we could do with more resources?

The committee felt that they had been well supported in the past for specific projects and had emergency call off funds on an annual basis from the Parish Council for events and large scale maintenance e.g. tree felling. The insurance for the group was now organised by the group but paid for by the Parish Council.

Bruce agreed to send a copy of the management plan.

She mentioned that there was a good link with Phil Clarke.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

The current balance is £ 2,737.79 with an additional £ 265 held by the Parish Council.

Transactions since the last meeting were:

£ 137.25 for den building expenses. Reimbursed by the Parish Council. Net effect: nil

£ 316.67 reimbursement of insurance cost from the Parish Council.

£ 543.96 for the purchase of the brush cutter and scythe.

£ 556.04 to reimburse the PC for funds not spent on the original brush cutter request and path border material.

This will still leave a healthy balance of £2,181.75.

6 WORK REVIEW & PLAN

JRei had circulated his report.

All is proceeding well.

The new brush cutter has been used successfully.

There are seedlings of greater birds foot trefoil.

The spread and dominance of cranes bill in the meadow is a bit worrying.

JRei is considering purchasing seeds of yellow rattle at Wyevale as they are cheap. He is also and reviewing potential seeds for the well shaded drier parts at the back of the wood. He will notify the primary school when these areas have been seeded.

Hazels need clearing

GB reported that there are large pieces of timber overlapping the footpath by the "horse meadow" from across the river. An ash near Margarets land. This wood need a chain saw to cut back. There is also another tree trunk impregnated with fence wire. It was decided to look at ways of dealing with this at the work party on 23 September.

JRei is unlikely to be at the September work party..

7 SOLAR MONIES

A brush cutter and scythe have been purchased. Agreement has been reached with the Parish Council on the amount to be refunded.

8 EVENTS

BH circulated the very positive article from the school in the September edition of MM.

Clare is considering a jint activity next year related to a film project on the Mel.

9 MEMORIAL TREE POLICY

GB to circulate a draft.

10 AGM 2018

JRi confirmed that he had booked the room for 7th February.

BH said that he would be happy to do a 20 minute presentation on how events in Melwood had developed a global dimension on environmental knowledge for school children through links with the Social Anthropology department at Cambridge University.

Jrei would speak to Margaret Reid about a bee keeper who had spoken at the WI.

11 ASSETS

GB was thanked for updating and maintaining the asset register.

BH mentioned that he held a number of small items:

Two pairs of wall papering scissors

Small children's scissors

Small balls of twine

Large ball of sisal twine

Tent pegs

12 DONATION TO RIVER MEL FILM: WATERLIGHT

A request had been made to the Treasurer for a donation to be made towards the making of a film about the river Mel built around 6 poems about the river. An poetry related event involving the primary school in Melwood and along the river was included in the proposal.

The committee agreed to donate £ 50 to the project.

13 HEADINGS ON E MAILS

GB requested that all e mails regarding Melwood have Melwood as the first item of the heading. This then automatically puts them into the appropriate folder in his e mail system.

14 DONMs 2017: 6 December Bruce