

# ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

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

held on Thursday 20 March 2025 at 6:30pm in the Village Hall.

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

**In Attendance:** The Clerk.

**1. Apologies for absence:** None.

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

**3. Public Participation:** None.

**4. Minutes of the meeting of the Natural Environment Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (48-49) having been circulated, be approved and that the Chair be authorised to sign.

**5. Recreational Area.**

Three moles had been caught. Conservation had looked at the Recreational Area and Saint Nicholas' Croft and taken notes and would be coming back in two weeks to check for evidence of hedgehogs. The Committee would wait to see what came up in the Spring. The trees planted along the edge would be left where they were as it was the wrong time of year to move them. The Chair would email the resident who cut the grass to ask him to leave the grass between the trees. Steve had got the nest boxes and bird boxes and would put them up in the week following the meeting. Boxes were £19.99 and Steve's group would advise on numbers. Members of the Committee had tidied up the Recreational Area and there was planting to do.

**6. Pond Area.**

The pattern of fluctuation of the water level was now recognised giving less concern when the level receded during spells of dry weather. The pond was looking good.

**7. Village Green.**

The Chair had been approached by a resident whose son-in-law cuts the grass in the summer. The snowdrops did better than last year and needed more time to establish themselves. Some of the bulbs might have rotted. Jo had received some more bulbs from her mother and would get these planted. The tree was looking healthy.

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

Since the last meeting, the Parish Council had agreed to share the cost of a skip with the Committee contributing £90 of this from its own budget. The clearance had taken place on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 as planned and there had been positive feedback. Appreciation was expressed for everyone who came along. The Choisyas had been cut back. The corner was already looking good. The Jo had a group photograph which would go in the next newsletter along with a short written report about the clearance. One person had expressed an interest in joining the Committee.

## **9. Any Other Business**

There was discussion about how to encourage bees with the need for flowers throughout the season. Steve agreed to get some foxgloves for the copse area of the Recreational Area. Other suggested plants were honeysuckle, lavender, hebe, dahlias and fuchsias and buddleias for butterflies. Steve suggested a propagation day. This is a day when students take cuttings from plants in the gardens of residents (or teach residents how to take cuttings). This would be one morning in the week or at the weekend. The cuttings would be taken to the college for the summer. The newsletter deadline was 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and the local WhatsApp could also be used to advertise this. This would be considered further at the next meeting.

## **10. Date of next meeting.**

22<sup>nd</sup> May, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 18<sup>th</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> November. The May meeting would be at 6pm due to the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting which would follow it. The Chair would write a report on the activities of the Committee for the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting closed at 7:10pm.

Signed

Chair  
22 May 2025