

ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

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

held on Thursday 21 November 2024 at 6:30pm in the Village Hall

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** None

2. **Declarations of interest:** None

3. **Public Participation:** David Hartley joined the meeting.

4. **Minutes of the last meeting**

It was **resolved** that the minutes be amended by deleting 'Kathryn would produce an article for the newsletter and send it to the Clerk' from point 6 and then approved.

5. **Recreational Area**

Students from the college have removed a number of dead trees and deadwood from the copse. The brash from the tree work has been left to chip and spread in the copse when the ground conditions improve. Two bird boxes, purchased by the NEC, were fixed to trees. Many of the ash trees - which make up the majority of the trees - are showing signs of stress and some deterioration which could be ash die back. The NEC have planted spring bulbs on the small mound.

Actions:

- a. Steve will arrange for students on the Conservation course to assess the copse and provide recommendations for future maintenance and planting succession.
- b. The Clerk to send a letter of thanks to the college.
- c. Kathryn to deliver the remaining four bird boxes to the college for the Conservation students to install.

6. **Pond Area**

A working party cleared saplings from the pond area in October. The water levels are rising and the pond is in a good condition.

7. **Village Green**

A selection of spring bulbs was planted in October. The grass has been maintained by local residents.

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

It was agreed that some maintenance is required to deal with the brambles and reduce some shrubs to a manageable size while maintaining wildlife habitats. A provisional date of Saturday 1 March 2025 was agreed for a working party to complete any work before the nesting season starts.

Actions:

- a) Julie to advise the Parish Council that a skip will be required to deal with the clearance work and that there may be a requirement to source a tree surgeon to reduce the willow tree.
- b) The Clerk to confirm the budget left for 2024/25.
- c) Jo to send Steve a list of the plants in the area.
- d) Steve to arrange for the Conservation students to review the area and provide recommendations on what to retain from a habitat perspective.

9. Budget 2025/26

An increase in budget may be required depending on the work required on the land at the junction of Main Street and St Nicholas Croft.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

11. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 16 January 2025.

The meeting closed at 7:25pm.

Signed

Chair
16 January 2025