

ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

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

held on Thursday 18 September 2025 at 6:30pm in the Village Hall.

PRESENT: Jan Bennett (Chair)
Julie Barber Steve Bassford Kathryn Nolan

In Attendance: The Clerk.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Laura Hardie, Jo Fell and 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 24th July 2025.**

A revised version on the draft minutes had been circulated incorporating changes suggested by Katherine. It was **resolved** that this version of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24th July 2025 (54-55) having been circulated, be approved and that the Chair be authorised to sign

5. **Recreational Area.**

David Hartley had suggested planting bluebells in the wooded area (native species). Jo had not included any bluebells in the recent bulb order but it was agreed that they should be added. David also suggested guelder roses and non-prickly hawthorn but it was decided that the NEC would look first at the saplings already planted in the Recreational Area to see if any could be transplanted.

It was noted that a letter had been received from a resident of Askham Richard expressing appreciation for the recreation area and the play equipment. The letter had been circulated to NEC members and forwarded to David Hartley.

There were no signs of wild flowers in the 'seed test bed' but autumn rain could encourage the seeds to break dormancy. In future yellow rattle could be used to suppress the growth of the grass,

6. **Pond Area.**

The date for the annual pond clearance (Saturday 4 October) had been advertised in the latest village newsletter but the time was not included. The committee agreed on 10am to 12 noon which will be included in the WhatsApp reminder that Jan would circulate in advance of the event.

7. **Village Green.**

Jo had looked closely at the horse chestnut saplings discussed in the previous meeting and reported that they were suckers which were easily removed.

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

Peter was keeping a check on the brambles and another resident of the Croft had been cutting the grass. It was suggested that some bulbs could be planted in this area and the NEC would discuss this on 4 October.

9. Plans for next year.

The focus for the next year would be to encourage pollinators in gardens and village spaces and plans include a NEC plant stall at the village spring fair and the development of an information board. The date of the college plant sale was 9 May 2026 and the Committee would need to liaise with the Village Hall Committee to avoid a clash. Kathryn volunteered to write an article for the next village newsletter (deadline 21 November). Kathryn also agreed to share the link to information about the local Environmental Festival running from 27 September to 2 November.

Steve would check if the 'college hedgehog group' would reform this academic year and be willing to work with the Committee. He would also seek specialist advice on where to place the bat box.

10. Date of next meeting.

20th November at 6:30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7pm.

Signed

Chair
20 November 2025