

# The Hoppit Woodland & Waterways Steering Group

## Minutes for AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### 1. Members Present:

Brian Fearnley (Vice-Chair)	(861007)	
Kevin Voller (Treasurer)	(861688)	<a href="mailto:debenham.woodland@btopenworld.com">debenham.woodland@btopenworld.com</a>
Howard Simpson (Secretary)	(860138)	<a href="mailto:howard.simpson@bakerhughes.com">howard.simpson@bakerhughes.com</a>
Reg Woodard	(860836)	
Steve Robbins	(860304)	<a href="mailto:crossgreeners@btinternet.com">crossgreeners@btinternet.com</a>
Steve Giddings	(860721)	<a href="mailto:sdgiddings8591@gmail.com">sdgiddings8591@gmail.com</a>
Rhona Allen	(860990)	<a href="mailto:rhona.allen@icloud.com">rhona.allen@icloud.com</a>

### 2. Apologies:

Jane Baldwin		<a href="mailto:ibdpc@hotmail.co.uk">ibdpc@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Gerry Baxter (Chair)	(861111)	<a href="mailto:gerrybaxter@outlook.com">gerrybaxter@outlook.com</a>
Alan Cushion	(860527)	<a href="mailto:alancushions63@gmail.com">alancushions63@gmail.com</a>

### Not Present:

Peter Richardson	(860996)	<a href="mailto:peter.richardson@aspall.co.uk">peter.richardson@aspall.co.uk</a>
Caroline Giddings		
Steven Phipps (PC Rep)	(861028)	<a href="mailto:sepdebpc@gmail.com">sepdebpc@gmail.com</a>

In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair Brian Fearnley led the meeting. The meeting was declared quorate.

### 3. Treasurer's Report:

The Parish Council clerk has been contacted, but as of the date of this meeting, no current bank statements have been received. We assume the balances are unchanged since the previous meeting: i.e.

- Current      £2599.56
- Deposit      £5461.21
- Total        £8060.77

The clerk was also asked about the expected VAT rebate, since this should be a significant amount following the invoice for the bridge.

**Action: Howard** to suggest to the Parish Clerk, and cc the PC Chair Jane Baldwin, that we receive a routine quarterly statement.

4. The minutes of the previous meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020) were reviewed and accepted.

### 5. Matters arising from the minutes:

- a) We have not received any invoice from Martin Durie for work he did in October. There is no evidence that his invoice has been received, or paid. **Action: Steve R to ask Martin.**

**Update:** Steve R received an invoice of £90 for repairing the tracks made by the vehicle. It had not been possible to contact the perpetrator, and in the circumstances, Martin Durie has offered to waive the payment. Item closed.

- b) Steve Robbins enquired about the Gladwells guarantee: Gladwells got in touch with the wood suppliers, who confirmed a 15-year guarantee, but there is no certificate, as such. **Action : Steve will thank Gladwells, and will ask about the treatment that had been applied to the wood.**

Update: Not worth pursuing. Item closed

- c) Coordination with Bernard Rose from the Mens' Shed re: bases for the wooden sculptures: They have not got any chestnut, but they do have oak. They are prepared to make the base for the otter, and are prepared to put in a drainage sinkhole for an appropriate donation. Estimated work is 2 people for 3 days. **Action: Gerry to suggest that Brian asks Bernard Rose what would be an appropriate donation.**

Update: What was proposed is over-elaborate. Suggested that we stick with the original base, put in a French drain with a gravel sump, and pack the sculpture otter into the gravel. Cost of materials would be £50. Donation would be another £50. Committee agreed to go ahead at this cost. **Action: Brian** would give Bernard the go-ahead.

- d) JB gave feedback to the Parish Council regarding the desire to develop the land next to the lake into an orchard or an extension to the woodland. Gerry received an email from Jane, which said that the PC thought it was unsuitable for planting trees. We will reply to express our disagreement – it was thought that planting this area with suitable species (whether fruit trees or not) would aesthetically enhance the whole area. This committee's objective is biodiversity, not to create a park of perfect trees. **Action: Gerry or Howard.**

Update: Not yet resolved satisfactorily. Action: Howard to write an email to the Parish Council this coming week to ask for clarification.

- e) It was thought that David Seccombe should be in contact with Gary Battell for advice: **Action: Steven Phipps to facilitate an introduction.**

Update: not known. Item closed.

- f) **Action: SR to pass thanks to the scouts for planting trees.**

Update: Done & closed

## 6. Election of Committee

The following individuals were elected to the executive:

Chair	Steve Robbins nominated by Brian, seconded by Rhona
Vice Chair	Brian Fearnley nominated by Steve Robbins, seconded by Howard
Treasurer	Kevin volunteered to continue in this role. Nominated by Brian, seconded by Steve Giddings
Secretary	Howard volunteered to continue in the role. Nominated by Brian, seconded by Steve Giddings

### Committee Members

Rhona agreed to continue to serve.

The following members were suggested in absentia, and will be asked to confirm their interest (Action: Howard)

Peter Richardson

Caroline Giddings

Alan Cushion

Mick Morley

**Action: Howard** to ask PC to confirm the PC representative

**Action: Howard** to express thanks to Gerry for his years of service.

**Action: Rhona** to ask Simon O'Brien if he would consider joining the committee.

Reg Woodard resigned from the committee, but indicated he would be willing to help with working parties. The committee thanked Reg for his practicality and knowledge which has been much appreciated over the years.

Following his acceptance of the position of Chair, the remainder of the meeting was led by Steve Robbins.

#### 7. Slope between lake & wood

The condition of the path has deteriorated further due to brittleness of the concrete. Suggestion was made to replace the membrane with cement or concrete in sections, but it was decided that the best option would be to instead lay grid matting then golden gravel.

A grid path up from the slope to the top of the shingle path was suggested, but although desirable this was thought too big a project.

**Action: Kevin & Steve** to look online for source of grid matting.

**Action:** Once purchased, **Steve** to arrange a working group to remove membrane and install grid & golden gravel.

#### 8. Work Parties

Jobs requiring action:

Repair to slope

Removal of tree guards, scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup> (or 17<sup>th</sup>, if the 10<sup>th</sup> is wet). Steve R. will be included in the Parish Magazine article.

Cutting of brambles around the lake, where tractors can't get access.

#### 10. AOB

It was stated that the PC has responsibility to clear the ditch up Priory Lane. It is assumed this responsibility extends to the path alongside the lake.

Could community funding be available from the new owners of Aspoll Cider, Molson Corrs? **Action: Howard** to raise the question to Pete Richardson.

Agreed to ask Joe Westrup in for one day's work to cut the brambles? **Action: Steve Robbins** to ask him to do it.

Noted that the amount of ragwort has reduced this summer – probably due to this year's weather.

#### 11. Dates for 2021 Meetings

Dates for routine meetings to be decided later, when the Covid-19 restrictions situation is clearer.

AGM Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021, at Dove Cottage