

The Hoppit Woodland & Waterways Steering Group

Minutes for meeting on 2nd March 2020

Dove Cottage 8pm

1. Members Present:

Gerry Baxter (Chair)	(861111)	gerrybaxter@outlook.com
Kevin Voller (Treasurer)	(861688)	debenham.woodland@btopenworld.com
Howard Simpson (Secretary)	(860138)	howard.simpson@bakerhughes.com
Reg Woodard	(860836)	
Steve Robbins	(860304)	crossgreeners@btinternet.com
Alan Cushion	(860527)	alancushions63@gmail.com
Steve Giddings	(860721)	sdgiddings8591@gmail.com
Steven Phipps (PC Rep)	(861028)	sepdebpc@gmail.com

2. Apologies:

Jane Baldwin	(860244)	jbdpc@hotmail.co.uk
Caroline Giddings		
Rhona Allen	(860990)	rhona.allen@icloud.com

Not Present:

Brian Fearnley (Vice-Chair)	(861007)	
Peter Richardson	(860996)	peter.richardson@aspall.co.uk

3. Treasurer's Report:

Update on balances:

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

Chris Lemondine-Martin has been paid £214.18 + £347.20 for the handrail and the fishing platform repairs; and we have received £250 from Kathie Guthrie's Locality Budget towards this cost.

£960 has been paid to Joe Westrup for bramble clearing done in October 2019

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.**

Steve R asked about VAT receipts. We think Dina has to wait until the end of the financial year before claiming a refund.

4. The minutes of the previous meeting (2nd December 2019) were reviewed and accepted.

5. Matters arising from the minutes:

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.**

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.**

6. Any additional information from PC:

Re: David Seccombe desire for land for woodland. 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.**

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

Gerry pointed out that if there was available land on Low Road that the PC wanted to develop into woodland, this might be administered by a separate group.

HS has been in contact with village webmaster Deborah Sage, and these meeting minutes will be sent direct to her.

W&W webpages – no action has been taken.

The question of ownership of the pathway – this item remains open.

Soliciting Matt Day for a quotation for resurfacing. This action is postponed until the weather is drier.

The new bench has been installed.

7. Rail from Lake to Woodland & Fishing Platforms:

The handrail from lake to woodland & fishing platforms: this has been completed and paid for. A letter of thanks has been sent to Kathie Guthrie.

8. Lake:

The lake is full, and draining through the outlet. Sediment has been cleared from the inlet.

Some earth from near the bridge has been eroding. This needs some attention when the water level has dropped – possibly by fixing a support from underneath the bridge.

9. Work Parties:

The path on the far side of the bridge is very muddy. Putting in drainage could be a task for summer work-parties.

Some tree-guards have been removed, but all will need to go, eventually.

10. AOB:

Early in March, Steve R. encountered a 4x4 stuck in the mud, which had left deep ruts around the woodland. Steve contacted Jack, who works for Martin Durie, to bring a tractor to help pull him out. The driver has offered to pay for the damage to the bridlepath.

Action: SR to pass thanks to the scouts for planting trees. A photo was included in the Parish magazine.

Dates of Future Meetings

1st June 2020 (Brian to chair)
7th September 2020 (AGM)
7th December 2020