

# The Hoppit Woodland & Waterways Steering Group

## Minutes of Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### **1. Members Present & Apologies:**

#### Members Present

Steve Robbins (Chair)	(860304)	crossgreeners@btinternet.com
Kevin Voller (Treasurer)	(861688)	kevin.voller@btopenworld.com
Howard Simpson (Secretary)	(860138)	howard.simpson@bakerhughes.com
Rhona Allen	(860990)	rhona.allen@icloud.com
Alan Cushion	(860527)	alancushions63@gmail.com
Brian Fearnley (Vice-Chair)	(861007)	
Mike Challis		mike@mikechallis.com
Rupert Thompson		

#### Visitors

Richard Blackwell, representing the Parish Council

#### Apologies

Kellie Fisher (PC Rep)  
Caroline Giddings  
Steve Giddings

#### Not Present

Peter Richardson	(860996)	peter.richardson@aspall.co.uk
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### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (AGM on 7th September 2022)**

The minutes were reviewed and accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

### **3. Matters arising from the minutes.**

Action Points:

Committee Membership: Pete Richardson had expressed a wish to continue with the committee, although said it was more likely he would attend work parties rather than committee meetings; Gerry Baxter still wants to be copied into the minutes.

Thinning out: Attempts had been made to contact Gary Battell for his advice on thinning out the trees, but we had got no response. The consensus at this meeting was that nature would take its course and would benefit from as little interference as possible. Closed.

### **4. Ongoing & Future Maintenance: hedges, rides, brambles & thinning out**

On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Joe Westrup did 7-hours of flailing at a cost of £420 incl. VAT (which we can reclaim).

Also, Richard Winrow-Giffin widened some of the paths, working under a Parish Council contract. A machine was hired for this work, and Alan Cushion used a strimmer, although going forward Alan will try to keep these paths trimmed using a garden mower. **Action: AC**

Steve Robbins contacted the Suffolk County Council Footpaths via their online form regarding the muddy state of the ground at the top of the shingle path, but has got no response.

On 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022, Joe pulled all the reed mace from the lake, taking 4 hours, and costing £200 not including VAT. Since then the water level has dropped by about a foot, although it was thought that this was due to lack of rain, and not to any damage to the lake bed.

Hedges are trimmed every other year – so not due until the Autumn.

#### **5. Notice Boards and Publicity**

Discussion about whether we need an additional notice board. No conclusion, so a compromise was agreed whereby an addition to the existing notice boards would be made to allow laminated notices, etc., to be pinned up. Howard volunteered to construct something suitable. **Action: HS**

#### **6. Fundraising**

Although a Treasurer's Report was not presented, it was stated that funds remained healthy at around £9000. However, grant funding has largely disappeared so this reserve will diminish over time. It was discussed how we might make a request for bequests, possibly by posting a notice on a new notice board. There are plenty of benches around the woodland and lake, so if anyone from the community requests a memorial, the committee agreed that a financial donation would be suggested.

#### **8. A. O. B**

It was noted that there were not many daffodils appearing yet. It was thought this was due to the dry winter.

Two residents had approached Steve Robbins to express the problems they have in pushing a wheelchair up the gradient to the lake. While this is unfortunate and the committee expressed sympathy, no practical solution was put forward.

Fundraising – Mike Challis suggested creating a Calendar for 2024 with 12 photos of the lake and woodland, through the years and through the seasons. For the first edition, the photos could be sourced from the committee only; thereafter, if the idea gains traction, the general population would be asked to contribute photos. **Action: Mike** to coordinate collection of possible photos.

Howard noted there was a large tree on the western side of the lake whose trunk had split, and one half was bending ever closed to the water. We may need to take some weight of this side of the tree during future work parties.

Howard was thanked for the use of his house for this meeting, while Dove Cottage was not available.

#### **9. Dates of next meetings**

AGM Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024