

The Hoppit Woodland & Waterways Steering Group

Minutes for meeting on 2nd December 2019

Dove Cottage 8pm

1. Members Present:

Gerry Baxter (Chair)	(861111)	gerrybaxter@outlook.com
Brian Fearnley (Vice-Chair)	(861007)	
Kevin Voller (Treasurer)	(861688)	debenham.woodland@btopenworld.com
Howard Simpson (Secretary)	(860138)	howard.simpson@bakerhughes.com
Jane Baldwin	(860244)	jbdpc@hotmail.co.uk
Reg Woodard	(860836)	
Steve Robbins	(860304)	crossgreeners@btinternet.com
Alan Cushion		alancushions63@gmail.com
Rhona Allen	(860990)	rhona.allen@icloud.com

2. Apologies:

Peter Richardson (860996) peter.richardson@aspall.co.uk

Not Present:

Caroline Giddings
Steve Giddings (860721) sdgiddings8591@gmail.com

Guests

Simon O'Brien
David Seccombe

3. Treasurer's Report:

Update on balances:

- Current £589.56
- Deposit £6183.57
- Total £6773.13

There were no changes since last meeting, except the about £3 of interest; we await one invoice from Joe Westrup for bramble clearance.

4. The minutes of the previous meeting (2nd September 2019) were reviewed and accepted (with the correction noted below).

5. Matters arising from the minutes:

- Joe Westrup's and Martin Durie's work clearing the brambles is complete
- PC reps: Committee needs confirmation of who are the two PC committee reps. **Action: JB**
- Still searching for the guarantee for the bridge construction: it should be with the invoice from Gladwells. **Action: SR**
- Danish Oil: error in the minutes; this item was completed by Brian F.

Sculptures: the bases of two of the sculptures are rotting quite badly. Bernard Rose, Mens' Shed Coordinator, has supplies of chestnut offcuts which could be used as bases (chestnut is very resistant to rot). Brian to check with Bernard whether this is feasible. **Action: BF**

6. David Seccombe: Any Key Community Action for historic and natural environmental possibilities?

The Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted. Further funding may be available through the Community Infrastructure Levy. Richard Blackwell has already started a parking and transport discussion, but David is leading the historic and natural environmental possibilities discussion. Identified actions are:

- Action 1: Encourage opportunity for new woodland and open spaces
Action 2: Support pollution mitigation opportunities.

Priorities are parking and traffic, but in future, there's opportunity to influence the incorporation of additional woodland in any new housing development.

This committee has been asking the PC for a number of years to extend our area of influence by allowing us to plant an orchard to the northeast of the lake. This is the only land that the PC has control over that may be suitable for large scale planting. Strong feeling in the meeting that this is an opportunity that must be grasped.

Parish Council will be undertaking a Tree Survey shortly, including assessment of Ash Dieback and other species-specific diseases.

In the Hoggs Kiss wood, the Woodland Trust have fenced off an area to allow natural regeneration without the rabbits or deer eating all of the new growth.

Regarding grants for additional trees, and more hedging, the areas for input from the committee are:

- a) What sort of trees would be required – we could provide a list. Focus should be on species that mitigate water run-off.
- b) What aspirations do we have for the new development: suggestion for using native species of shrubs.

Action: JB will feedback to the PC the desire for developing the land in question into an orchard, or an extension to the woodland.

9:00 p.m. Reg, Brian and David Seccombe left the meeting

7. Communication with the village

The search for new members: there is no contact name on the noticeboard. **Action: HS to add village webmaster Deborah Sage to the minutes' circulation list.**

W&W website: SR is happy to take it on. KV will check whether his password is still active and will look at the existing pages. Steve will look into WordPress, which may be more of a blog site. **Actions: KV and SR**

8. Lake & Bridge

The lake is full, and draining through the outlet.

It was never clearly established who owns the path by the inlet. JB thought it was the responsibility of the landowner. **Action: JB to check ownership**

Noted that the stream was blocked and overflowed during the recent rains, which damaged the surface of the lane. Maintenance is the responsibility of the Highways Agency.

Handrail

We have received a quotation from Chris L-M to supply and fit a handrail, at £214 incl. VAT. This is not enough for a locality grant from Kathy Guthrie. Suggested to combine the work with resurfacing, which was quoted as an additional £3,253

Action: SR to contact Matt Day, and possibly Mathew Hicks, to provide another quote for the resurfacing.

Chris L-M has also quoted for a repair of the fishing platforms at £347. This, plus the handrail, would qualify for the Locality Grant.

Resolved to engage Chris for the handrail – **Action: SR to make contact**

Approach the Mens' Shed for the kicker rails on the fishing platforms. **Action: SR to ask Tony Hutt.**

9. Bench

The quote for the bench installation was received this evening at £368, which was considered expensive. Action: Howard to revert to Richard Blackwell to say that we are happy with the bench, but cannot pay for the installation

Could we move the Woodland Trust bench, just inside the Hoppit Wood. **Action: Howard to contact Ed van Ek** at the Woodland Trust to ask. (subsequently found that this bench had been sponsored by the British Legion)

10. Clearance of Brambles

- Done. Awaiting invoice

11. Parish Magazine

- Nothing to report

12. Work Parties

- Nothing urgent. Continual removal of tree guards is required.

13. Any Other Business

- Steve has lots of tools. Howard to draw up an inventory, following input from committee members.

14. Dates of Future Meetings – all at 8pm in Dove Cottage

2nd March 2020

1st June 2020

7th September 2020 (AGM)

7th December 2020