

Draft Minutes Scholes Lodge Field Subcommittee Meeting

9th July 2020 remote meeting. 18.30

Attendees; Cllrs Paul Remmer (Chair), Karen Dales, Graham Slater, Stella Walsh, Claire Hassell (PC Vice Chair) and Janet Horkan. Observers residents; Andrew Douglas and Susan Glover.

Apologies; None

To receive any declarations of interest not already declared under the council's code of conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and to receive and consider any applications for dispensation.

No new declarations of pecuniary interests declared.

Minutes The draft minutes from the last meeting 28th May 2020 approved.

1. The owl box pole has been removed and cut into smaller pieces and left in hedge bottom. Approximately 1 metre high section left with bug box attached. Mr D Horkan to remove remainder and fill in socket. Cost of a new pole treated with preservative. to be determined and placed in a new position to provide more suitable cover.
2. The suggestion that the owl box should be erected in an oak tree in Cllr Dales garden proved to be unsuitable and is now stored in the garage at Barwick. Action: SW to contact Lotherton to discuss location with bird experts.
3. Grass cutting, continues to be a problem and the need to bale to reduce thatch build up has made the issue more difficult. Contractor ATM has agreed to cut and bale for no cost at the earliest opportunity. Yorkshire wildlife contacted, no baling equipment. Only flat areas with be cut and baled where equipment can be used. Need to cut and bale when grass long enough, 2 cuts mid-June and September. JH has circulated map with colour coded references which can be used by the subcommittee and contractors to identify areas in the field which need cutting. Area to be left nearest Methodist to encourage wild flower area (Area 1 to 1A). Leave banks (Purple areas). Action: Chair to contact ATM to discuss possible incentives for future cut and bale.
4. Dock remains a problem and needs spraying but cannot be done until grass cut as contractor would not take hay with herbicide. Cost of licence to spray approximately £480. Need to sort out spraying on a consistent basis once grass cut.
5. Wild flower planting. Robert Masheder provided yellow rattle seeds. Agreed KD to plant in mole hills after grass cut. Ragged-robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) bog plants (8x6 trays £8) to be planted in wet areas when a group can be organised.
6. Agreed that some of the photographs taken by resident would be used to illustrate the development of SLF in the next PC Newsletter. Need to establish how the resident wishes to be acknowledged.
7. Benches need attention. Action: Chair to buy wood preservative and brushes £50 maximum spend.

8. WI plaque to be erected on a pole (18 inches 0.5 metre approx.) above the ground to allow grass cutting.
9. Consideration of Report from site visit 5th June by Ian Sanderson (Principal Archaeologist, West Yorkshire Archaeological Service) Robert Masheder (Senior Ecologist, West Yorkshire Ecology Service). It was agreed this had been an informative and useful visit from independent professional experts to support appropriate management of the land to preserve the historical archaeological and ecological aspects of the field. Details of report attached. Prior to discussion of the recommendations, JH noted that her personal view was that she did not want the whole of the recommendations to be fully implemented. She argued that grass and hay were not the only considerations and the planting of trees should be considered. A questionnaire should be sent to the parishioners to seek views on the planting and general use of this public open space. Lengthy discussion noted that an expert arboriculturist should be consulted; the previous 2008 Ecological Report; Wessex Report 2012, and the 2020 archaeological and ecological reports to be placed in the public domain, together with a map of potential areas for tree planting. Diagram's Figure 2 and Figure 8 from The Wessex Report 2012 were considered to highlight potential areas where trees could be planted but it was noted that the areas were limited to the grey areas (areas of low archaeological significance). Moreover, one grey area was the site of the land drain from the SL housing development and it was agreed this was unsuitable. Recommend that trees (if any) to be planted in low archaeological areas, the largest of these areas is the orchard and this is already planted. It was noted that destruction of the archaeological areas may lead to increased risk of building on the land as it would remove its protected status, and therefore needs to be preserved. Tree planting needs permission from the PC. Chair to meet with JH to note where current tree planting has taken place. Action: Chair to prepare a report to present at September PC meeting, which should present a range of options for consideration.
10. Livestock in the field, it has been clarified that this is not permissible.
11. Management plan for the field 2020-2025. Need for a long-term strategic plan which identifies the appropriate management which preserves the character of the field, which outlines maintenance that balances the archaeological and historical aspects and ecological nature of the field. Proposal that a maintenance timeline included.
12. **A.O.B**
 - a. Ecological report noted iris should be removed. JH to remove
 - b. Orchard, dead fruit tree to be removed, willow tree to be removed
 - c. Andrew Douglas offered his skills to draft map drawings in a professional manner. Offer accepted.

Finish 20.10

Dates of next meeting to be circulated.