

Draft Minutes Scholes Lodge Field Subcommittee Meeting

28th May 2020 remote meeting. 18.30

Attendees; Cllrs Paul Remmer, Karen Dales, Graham Slater, Stella Walsh and Janet Horkan.

Cllr Graham Slater was welcomed to the group.

Chair Paul Remmer nominated as Chair; it was agreed there was no need for a Vice Chair as the group is small.

Cllr Walsh agreed to take minutes.

No new declarations of pecuniary interests declared; previously declared Cllr Remmer, Dales and Walsh as they live adjacent to the land.

Apologies; None

Minutes The draft minutes from the last meeting **11th March 2020 approved.**

- 1. Terms of Reference.** 2 changes were agreed. Item 4 change to “shall elect” a Chair

Item 7 Changed to all members have equal votes.

With the following agreed amendments TOR will be sent to PC for approval.

2. Addition of new members

There was a lengthy discussion about the merits of the addition of new members onto the subcommittee, particularly for the addition of residents from Scholes. It was noted that it was felt that the skill set of the current membership was sufficient for the subcommittee to undertake the responsibilities and delegated powers identified in the TOR and therefore no real need at the present time to add any new residents. Retaining the character of the field remains one of the key principles for the subcommittee. Previous experience of a larger group had resulted in it being disbanded as it became too problematic to meet the varying demands made by residents and therefore a cautious approach is required so this does not happen again.

It was highlighted that any residents could attend meetings and make comments. Any major changes to the field or policy need to be approved via the PC. The issue that the residents who had identified themselves lived very close to the field and a wider representation from residents across Scholes would be beneficial. It was noted that the addition of Cllr Slater was helpful in this regard as he did not live nearby.

It was noted that it would be appropriate to have a representative from Barwick and would be good to have members from other parts of our village. In addition, the Chair and the Vice chair of the PC are ex-officio members of the subcommittee, and represent the wider village and Parish. Request that the ex-officio members attend the meetings when they can. The problems for new membership to be inducted whilst undertaking remote meetings was noted.

It was agreed that membership is deferred whilst the present remote meetings are the practice. An article will be placed in the PC Newsletter to seek wider membership of the subcommittee.

Action: Clerk to be to write to the two residents who had expressed an interest and thank them for their interest.

3. Matters arising.

Updates on programme of works.

- a. The hedge had been trimmed by the contractor (Barry W) on the west side of the field which has resulted in damage to the field. The Chair will discuss with the contractor. It was noted that specifications for jobs in the field need to be clarified in order to prevent further issues.
- b. Undergrowth in the stream. Taylor Wimpey responsibility to clear. It was noted however, that the Ecology Report 2008 identified that only one bank should be cleared.

Action: Clerk to notify Taylor Wimpey.

- c. Owl pole and box; these have been damaged. The pole is of concern as there is evidence of rot and it is estimated that it will require removal in 12 months. Pole to be removed as soon as possible.

Action: Clerk to find costs for the following alternatives (any quotes must include infill of the socket).

1. Total removal of the pole and disposal
2. Removal of the post and cutting into smaller pieces and left in hedge bottom

The owl box has been repaired. A lengthy discussion including the need to understand the type of box that may attract owls and the need to establish a better position for the box were considered.

Action; agreed that on a temporary basis the box should be erected in an oak tree in Cllr Dales garden.

- d. Dock remains a problem and needs spraying at the appropriate time to allow it to die back before the grass is cut, approximately 4 to 7 days. Boom spray the worst bits and hand spray other sections. Agreed need to spray asap and cut at next opportunity.
- e. Grass cutting, contractor (Barry W) paths are cut shorter to define walking areas currently do not need cutting. Need for a further cut before next meeting but dry weather restricting growth.

Action: JH and Cllr Dales to meet with contractor to identify areas for cutting and excluded areas. JH to develop an A4 map with grid references which can be used by the subcommittee and contractors to identify areas in the field.

- f. Wild flower planting. A detailed discussion on the problems associated with developing these types of sites and people's perceptions, particularly visual impact. There has been some success but this is a longer-term project. A resident has been taking photographs.

Action: Some of the photographs would be used to illustrate the development to the PC.

- g. Bog area. Totally overgrown with dock and weeds. Problems of spraying in this wet area highlighted. Need to clarify weed killer within this ecologically sensitive area.

Action: Seek advice with ecological experts (visit to site Friday 5th June).

- h. WI cherry tree box removed. Plaque now available (6x4 inch oak).

Action: Picture to be circulated before decision where it will be situated.

- i. Trees. The original plan in the initial agreement has not been strictly adhered to and there are concerns that there is greater spread than in this agreement. The plan needs to be adhered to. PC agreed the inclusion of the information boards, benches, and wooden walk ways. JH had previously brought a plan to the PC with details of the addition of further tree planting. The ecological and archaeological reports need to be considered so that the character of the field is not changed. Permission must be given by the PC for any further planting of trees. Chair to circulate the initial plan.

- j. Moles, budget for mole treatments raised to £250. Ask the Clerk for details of mole contractors used by other organisations in the Parish.

- k. Dog fouling remains problematic. Chair to discuss with Dog Warden.

4. **Budget.** This had been circulated. Discussion with regard to budget over 2 and 3 year periods.

Agreed with above change (£250 moles). Send to F&GP Committee.

5. **Prince's Trust.** No further information. Defer to next meeting,

6. **AOB.**

Meeting with ecological and archaeological experts deferred to Friday 5th June. Need to clarify management plan for the field to ensure it meets the ecological nature and character of the field. UK Bio-diversity plan reference to grass cutting, "...grass needs to be removed". Need for subcommittee to reconsider. The use of livestock in the field was discussed.

Finish 19.55

Dates of next meeting to be circulated.