

Minutes of Histon & Impington Nature & Biodiversity
7:30pm, Monday 3rd October 2022
Community Room, Recreation Ground, New Road, Impington

Nature & Biodiversity Committee Minutes

Membership: 6 + 2 ex-officio

Appendices: 0

Quorum: 3

Agenda No:	Present: Cllrs: Joseph Adam; Aga Cahn, Tom McKeown; Sarah Smith Ex Officio Members: Cllrs: Denis Payne, Yvonne Murray HI Trees/HICOP: Dan Mace Clerk: Theresa King 2 vacancies	
NB22/006 006.1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies from Cllr Murray	
NB22/007 007.1	MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS None declared.	
NB22/008 008.1	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Nothing on agenda addressed.	
NB22/009 009.1	To Approve minutes of the meeting held 23rd May 2022 (Appx 1) All in favour for Chair to sign as a true and accurate record of the meeting, approved	
NB22/010 010.1 010.2	To co-opt a representative of HICOP, HI Trees and HI Sustainability All agreed to co-opt Dan Mace (HICOP and HI Trees). No members of HI Sustainability present. Item to co-opt member of HI Sustainability to be added to next agenda. To receive update from HICOP, HI Trees and HI Sustainability Dan Mace updated committee on Green Canopy project and survey asking for potential sites to plant new trees, as well as HI Trees and HICOP. <u>Green Canopy:</u> Dan had met with County Council Highways Officer and reviewed suggested locations, ruling out any which would not pass a safety audit. Main hurdle on many sites would be landowner buy in, in particular where sites were farmed by tenant farmers, especially with current uncertainty over the ELMs system (paying farmers for good environmental management) which might move back to an area-based payment, bringing more land back into production. If sites could be obtained, then grants were available for many of the other aspects of the planting, but also a maintenance overhead needed to be included. <u>HI Trees:</u> planting project at the Holiday Inn. One-year whips had been planted, and normally it would be expected to lose 20% of the young trees in a year, this summer had created a 20-35% loss. The 8 specimen trees appeared to have survived as they had received more care from the groups who had planted the trees. <u>HICOP Orchard</u> – first incident of tree damage. Plans to lower hedge height around the site to make it easier for the orchard itself to be seen.	Next agenda
NB22/011 011.1	To note Committee Remit and create a Biodiversity Action Plan Remit of committee discussed in September workshop. Creating a biodiversity Plan aligns with Project P12 in the Neighbourhood Plan and this was felt to be an important part of the remit of the committee. Chair suggested residents making their own observations (“Citizen Science”) could feed into the plan. Cllr McKeown suggested schools could do their own surveys. A plan will help with Planning Applications as it will provide more localised information than official records hold. The plan would be collaborative with other stakeholders to buy	

	<p>in and join in; Histon and Impington Green Spaces (HIGS) have offered to help with creating a plan. Cllr Payne expressed concern that as a community, biodiversity observations are not being uploaded to official records and the Committee agreed to action this as part of the project, Cllr Payne to circulate local official site link.</p> <p>Chair to investigate tools and funding information and circulate to committee. The motion to Create a Biodiversity Action Plan was agreed unanimously. Workshop to be held to begin developing plan and recording of information.</p>	<p>DP</p> <p>Workshop</p>
<p>NB22/012</p> <p>012.1</p>	<p>To Review and Prioritise Projects for 22/23 and 23/24</p> <p>To review current 3-year capital project list</p> <p>Following workshop in September at which project list was discussed in length, Chair presented a list of proposed key projects (Appx. 2). Chair also highlighted the need to find out what projects were planned by other committees where this committee could contribute/advise, which should be added to the list. Additional projects could be added once scoping work undertaken to define projects in more detail. Cllr Payne suggested that before lockdown, there had already been more community involvement in the environment.</p> <p>Further discussion followed on the list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting in follow up to Queen’s Canopy survey – all agreed to decide on priority list for Parish Council support. • Cllr Cahn asked where the previous Environment project of a Christmas tree at The Copse has gone, now an LAI committee project to consider. • Climate Fresk– Cllr McKeown explained that it is from an organisation educating people about climate change. Based on an educational game, whereby a group of people go through the IPCC report. The event would need a room and a facilitator, and large tables, the event lasting 3 hours with 6-8 people on each table. Main cost of the Fresk would be booking a facilitator. • Cllr Cahn suggested all of council should take part in this as the Council as a whole had called a climate emergency. • Cllr McKeown to obtain costings and update committee at next meeting. • Pavilion Energy efficiency survey – Clerk to circulate. Committee will review report and discuss with the Rec Development group for medium to short term focus. • Cllr Payne suggested there would be no major development of the Recreation Ground until 2027 when the new District Council Local Plan was due to be released. • All agreed to review report for quick wins considered worth doing. • Sustainability Conference and 30-day challenge - other groups would lead on these and Cllr Smith would work with them and request help/commitment when more details available. • Public Art/ Pat Fleet project – Cllr Payne outlined the history of the Pat Fleet memorial garden and its loss when the units were developed in the school hill site. Cllr Payne now working with a small group of interested parties on two possible commemorative projects – a commemorative seat with a sculpted back and a villages equivalent of the blue plaque scheme which could be rolled out to include other notable people. This would need homeowners’ permission. Cllr Payne had discussed the project with a potential Project manager, who had estimated £2,000 for her project management of the projects, with materials etc additional. The Chair asked for costings (including project management costings) to be brought back to the Committee for further discussion • Mentioned at Full Council that the bench could be integrated into the plans for the Manorial Waste area, Cllr Payne to take this back to the group for further discussions. • Site based biodiversity enhancements – suggested workshop to brainstorm suitable areas for specific plans/projects. Committees to consider suitable areas, such as sites suitable for tarmac removal and planting, greening of play areas etc. • Workshop to provide a list of defined projects for the November agenda to 	<p>TM Clerk All</p> <p>DP</p> <p>DP</p> <p>Workshop/ All</p> <p>November agenda</p>

012.2	<p>provide information for budget setting.</p> <p>To consider action on Community energy projects and County Council land projects Committee agreed that anyone interested in Community energy projects should meet with Cty Cllr Hathorn if interested.</p> <p>County Council land projects will be considered by County Council if a good rationale provided. Committee to consider this when scoping projects.</p>	
012.3	<p>To agree three projects for approval and delegation</p> <p>Committee agreed to scope projects in more detail and provide detailed projects at the meeting in November in order to prioritise for current year and next year budget setting.</p>	Next agenda
NB22/013 013.1	<p>To agree the formation of a Task and Finish Group to review the grass cutting contract and possible inclusion of new no-mow areas</p> <p>Current contract ended in March 2022, extended for one year due to RFO being new in role. Information on No Mow verges project supplied to September Workshop, and possible new areas to be considered in new contract, plus support for issues with current areas. Committee felt more communication on the project would help, with an article in a newsletter, and notices for areas for information. Clerk and Chair to work on contract, with help from Cllr Payne. To budget for the contract, the tender should be ready to go to contractors by early November. All in favour of delegating contract to Task and Finish Group.</p>	TK, SS, DP
NB22/014	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 15th November 2022</p> <p>Items for next agenda: To co-opt a member of HI Sustainability; To review Tree Officer position; To agree projects to proceed with</p> <p>Meeting closed: 9.00 p.m.</p>	