

Minutes of Histon & Impington Nature & Biodiversity
7:30pm, Monday 3rd October 2023
Community Room, Recreation Ground, New Road, Impington

Nature & Biodiversity Committee Minutes

Membership: 6 + 2 ex-officio

Appendices: 4 Quorum: 3

Agenda No:	Present: Cllrs: Joseph Adam; Tom McKeown, Sarah Smith (Chair) Ex Officio Members: Cllrs: Yvonne Murray Clerk: Theresa King HICOP/Hi Trees: Dan Mace 2 vacancies	
NB23/007 007.1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Cahn (absent), Cllr Stonham (apologies)	
NB23/008 008.1	MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS None declared.	
NB23/009 009.1	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION No public present	
NB23/010 010.1	To nominate a member of this Committee to be a member of the Finance, Governance & Legal Committee Cllr Murray agreed to represent the committee and provide feedback.	
NB23/011 011.1	To review and approve Terms of Reference (Appx 1) Committee to review current Terms of Reference and feedback any comments for future changes. Committee agreed to approve this version as a working version. Proposed Cllr Murray, seconded Cllr McKeown, all in favour to approve as working version.	Committee
NB23/012 012.1	To Approve minutes of the meetings held 28 March 2023 and 22nd May 2023 (Appx 2) Cllr McKeown abstained as not at the meetings but noted a spelling mistake in item 43.1 in "Park Lane". Cllr Adam proposed to accept the modified minutes, seconded Cllr Murray, all in favour and approved.	
NB23/013 013.1	Matters Arising from Previous Meetings Discussed as agenda items	
NB23/014 014.1 014.2	To receive Reports Chair's Report (Appx 3) Report covered HI EcoFest; Project P12 (Nature recovery Plan); Histon Woods (aka "The WI Woods"); Site Management Plans; Climate Action Plan Report noted by all. Cllr Smith updated the committee on the Climate Action Plan and outlined the proposed item for the October Full Council Agenda. Draft documents to be circulated for Committee consideration before addition to Full Council Agenda. HI Trees/HICOP Dan Mace gave a verbal update on both items. HI Trees had undertaken a second weeding session with a good turnout. Trees appear to be growing well and will be surveyed on 8 th October 2023 to discover any failures. The Woodland Trust, who provided the trees, are asking for an update as other projects have lost trees, and they are offering to replace losses, which the group may take advantage of. HICOP had a good turnout for the Orchard Breakfast which helped with raising funds. A juicing event was to be held on Saturday 7 th October 2023. Dan Mace requested more updates from Council as to when Manor Field is to be mown in future in case the orchard	SS

014.3	<p>needs to be include after issues this year. Cllr Smith confirmed that updates would be provided in future.</p> <p>HI Sustainability No member was present, Cllr Smith verbally updated the committee after discussions with Nicole Barton. Swavesey Library of Things were considering going more mobile and spreading to other villages. They may come and present to the committee and possibly present a funding request. The group is also organising another Swish Event on November 4th.</p>	
<p>NB23/015</p> <p>015.1</p> <p>015.2</p>	<p>To receive update on Tree Officer position</p> <p>Only one application received for position, from Daphne Fisher, which was accepted, and Daphne started work on 7th September 2023 for one year. Daphne has been working on the tree survey information, visiting all Parish owned sites to check and review the survey results and consider the management of the trees highlighted to provide biodiversity value, such as pollarding rather than removal. She will then provide a report to the committee for consideration and decisions on work to be undertaken.</p> <p>To discuss work required as a result of the tree surveys, and delegate emergency work to staff, working in conjunction with Tree Officer Two issues requiring action have been identified by the Tree Officer. The first is a group of five sycamores at Homefield Park which are considered dead and dangerous as they are very close to houses and a footpath. One of the trees was identified on the 2023 tree surveys as needing felling due to basal and heartwood decay. The Tree Officer highlighted that the additional trees had succumbed to Sooty Bark Disease since the surveys were done in February and warned that many trees had failed with the disease due to the hot summer of 2022 and the wetter weather of 2023, and that more trees may need to be identified for removal due to the disease spreading in the time since the survey was completed. The Tree Officer has also reviewed a tree at The Coppice which has been identified in the tree surveys as possibly needing felling. Due to the size of the tree, the Tree Officer considers this may possibly qualify as an Ancient Tree, and would suggest we work with Histon and Impington Green Spaces (HIGS) to engage the services of a specialist in ancient trees and their management.</p> <p>RFO has obtained quotation for the work on the sycamores at Homefield Park of £1,540.00 + VAT from a contractor who is available to undertake the work as soon as possible as well as the submission of the Five Day Notice to South Cambs. The committee highlighted the need to communicate all plans to residents as soon as possible, especially those living near any proposed works. Possible replanting to be considered and discussed with Dan Mace as representative of HI Trees.</p> <p>Cllr Murray proposed, Cllr Smith seconded, all in favour to delegate emergency tree work to staff and Tree Officer. Cllr Smith to ask HIGS for details of contact to undertake ancient tree survey work in order to obtain a quotation. Committee highlighted the need for the engagement of the community when a full review of work as a result of the tree surveys is considered and publicise plans for comment.</p>	<p>Next Agenda</p> <p>SS</p>
<p>NB23/016</p> <p>016.1</p> <p>016.2</p>	<p>To receive Project updates and review items requiring decisions</p> <p>Small Biodiversity projects – To receive review of location of daffodil bulbs and possible planting sites, and agree a budget of up to £250 for planting in autumn (Appx 4) Committee reviewed the planting locations. Additional suggestions were near the sculpture of Grandfather and Grandson near Park School and the entrance to Park primary. Committee suggested that the community be asked to get involved in the project. Proposed Cllr Murray, seconded Cllr McKeown, all in favour to proceed with order of daffodil bulbs. Cllr McKeown also suggested hellebores be considered.</p> <p>To review project of Hedge planting at Manor Field and agree next steps Plan to plant new hedging running parallel to footpath, current hedging has many gaps. Cllr Smith estimates a length of 150-200 metres and using figures for the hedging planted at Doctor's Close, estimates a cost of between £2,500 and £3,000 for plants, post maintenance costs of £1,000 and additional costs for clearing and possibly planting.</p>	<p>RFO</p>

<p>016.3</p>	<p>November and December are the best months to plant. Cllr Smith suggested consideration also needs to be made of the site being considered for a pump track. Dan Mace also suggested that power lines running across the field may need to be considered when using machinery. Committee agreed it should be included in the 3 year plan for 24-25, in order to consider all aspects of the project and include the moving regime for the field. Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Murray, all in favour to include in 24-25 planning.</p> <p>To discuss tree replanting scheme, decide on locations and agree budget for action Report provided by Dan Mace with suggested locations and outline costings. Dan highlighted that planting trees needs time and effort and people resource to make sure they grow on well and can be very weather dependent. The committee suggested that the community should be involved when planting trees. Cllr Smith highlighted that a message needed to be made to the Employment and Transformation Committee that staff capacity was needed to undertake and maintain projects. Cllr Murray questioned whether trees could be planted where any are removed as part of the work as a result of the tree surveys but Dan highlighted that woodlands were known to be difficult to plant in. Dan highlighted that the best planting time for trees is December to March. RFO to contact County Council re council owned possible sites and planting as new Highways officer in place.</p> <p>Cllr McKeown proposed an amended motion: To agree locations for planting as provided and use tree planting budget to complete project, and agree to highlight the need for maintenance including some ground staff support and raise with Employment Committee. Proposed Cllr McKeown, seconded Cllr Adam, all in favour to accept amended motion.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr McKeown, all in favour to accept amended motion. Cllr Smith to contact Employment and Transformation Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Adam also highlighted a scheme in London where trees were being put in residential sites, to provide more information to next meeting.</p>	<p>RFO</p>
<p>016.4</p>	<p>To receive updates on Energy Efficiency projects Survey of seals in Community Room undertaken, awaiting costings for repair. Additional hire of M&E consultant already agreed by Full Council. Cllr McKeown had drafted a letter to enable quotations to be received for the service. Potential consultants to be identified. Aim is for consultant to make specific recommendations.</p>	<p>SS</p>
<p>016.5</p>	<p>To receive updates on Public Art projects RFO working in place of Cllr Payne on Pat Fleet bench. Worked with group of residents, obtained more information and ideas, then contacted two suppliers and awaiting possible designs. No progress on Blue Plaque scheme currently.</p>	<p>JA</p>
<p>016.6</p>	<p>To receive updates on other Small Biodiversity projects Cllr Smith highlighted that further Public Art proposals were always welcome and suggested it be added to future agendas. Cllr Smith requested RFO confirm Section 106 expiry dates and circulate to Committee. Dan Mace suggested a wooden sculpture outside with orchard with slats in for bikes, Cllr Murray questioned whether any monoliths created could be converted into sculptures. RFO to contact SCDC to confirm if Public Art projects can include functional items like bike racks and bins.</p>	<p>RFO RFO</p>
<p>NB23/017</p>	<p>Other matters</p>	
<p>017.1</p>	<p>To consider request from resident for additional litter bin at Homefield Park Resident who volunteer litter picks suggested an additional litter bin would be beneficial after increased rubbish in mid-summer. Cllr McKeown suggested considering making the existing bin a bigger general bin. RFO to investigate exact location suggested and costs</p>	

017.2	<p>of various bins and present at next meeting. Will need to be added to Ranger collection scheme if not in current position.</p> <p>To consider installation of additional fencing near garages which back onto Homefield Park for security improvements RFO outlined suggestion of installing fencing in an area behind garages which back onto Homefield Park in order to deter antisocial behaviour and climbing onto garages. Deferred to next meeting, RFO to provide more details and possible costings.</p>	<p>RFO</p> <p>RFO</p>
NB23/018	<p><u>Communicating the October 23 Nature and Biodiversity Committee Meeting and Request Matters For Next Agenda</u></p> <p>Communication: Agreed Article on process being undertaken with review of tree survey work, Bulb planting and ideas for Public Art projects. Articles to be posted to website and then ask for an article on HI Hub – delegated to Cllr Smith, Cllr Murray and RFO. Next agenda: Budgets and three-year plans including decisions on tree works needed as a result of tree surveys and Tree Officer report.</p>	<p>SS, YM, RFO</p>
NB23/019	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Meeting close: 9.18 p.m.</p> <p>Appendix 1 : Terms of Reference Appendix 2: Minutes of the meeting held 28 March 2023 and 22nd May 2023 Appendix 3: Chair's Report Appendix 4: Daffodil Bulb planting sites</p>	