

Minutes of Histon & Impington Nature & Biodiversity
7:30pm, Tuesday 6th February 2024
Community Room, Recreation Ground, New Road, Impington

Nature & Biodiversity Committee Minutes

Membership: 6 + 2 ex-officio

Appendices: 2 Quorum: 3

Agenda No:	<p>Present: Cllrs: Joseph Adam, Tom McKeown, Sarah Smith (Chair) Ex Officio Members: Cllrs: Yvonne Murray Clerk: not present Tree Officer :Daphne Fisher (not present)</p> <p>2 vacancies</p>	
NB23/030	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
030.1	Cllr Stonham (personal); Cllr Cahn (personal), Dan Mace (personal)	
NB23/031	MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
031.1	Cllr McKeown – Trustee of HI Pump Track, non-pecuniary interest item 035.8	
NB23/032	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
032.2	No members of public present	
NB23/033	To Approve minutes of the meeting held 14th November 2023 (Appx 1)	
033.1	Proposed Cllr McKeown, seconded Cllr Adam, all in favour , Chair to sign as a true and accurate record of the meeting. One councillor abstained.	
NB23/034	Matters Arising from Previous Meetings	
034.1	Chair confirmed, discussed as agenda items.	
NB23/035	To receive Project updates and review items	
035.1	<p>Tree works scheduling RFO in the final stages of completing schedules of works, undertaking final reviews with Tree Officer to ensure all information captured correctly. Once these are done, RFO is creating packs for each site with the schedule of work and the maps from Haydens and the Tree Officer. These can then be publicised on the website, and we can ask for residents' views at this point where we would like it, such as the beech tree at the Coppice. Orders will then be placed with various contractors, asking different ones to do different sites to spread the work, as they have been very patient with us with all the questions and requotes we have been asking for, as well as the additional work we needed quotes for.</p> <p>Thanks to both RFO, Tree Officer and Cllr McKeown for planning of works. RFO and Tree Officer working hard on project. Note different opinion on actions by contractors. Tight deadline for oncoming nesting season. Where issues are health and safety related, work may be required in nesting season. Work will also be required in Autumn. Tree Officer has prepared a Briefing note which may form basis for website article and Tree Policy.</p>	
035.2	<p>Small Biodiversity projects – Bulb planting Two successful planting dates undertaken. Small amount of bulbs to go to volunteer who could not make it. Rob Murray, nursery owner happy to donate next year. Great morning for Cllr Murray's grandson.</p>	
035.3	<p>New tree planting Cllr Smith gave update in Dan's absence. Locations approved and Dan Mace purchased trees and has been recompensed, and many trees already planted. Cubs to help with planting at Manor Field. Cllr Adam offered to help with planting South Road trees. Recreation Ground planting still to be resolved, RFO awaiting permissions to plant. Dan</p>	

	Mace can care for trees if not planted this year.	
035.4	<p>Histon Woods works Cllr Smith leading with Dave Dives (botanist) on project with members of the community. Invasive Holme Oaks shading out undergrowth species. Engagement with Cambs County Council (CCC) who own the woods. CCC interested in long term relationship on Community Action plan. One day event held with group pulling up saplings. Histon and Impington Green Spaces (HIGS) may be interested in heading Community Action Plan. Another working day to be held on Saturday 10th February 2024.</p>	
035.5	<p>M&E Consultant – to agree next steps in selection of consultant and review budget Office staff contacted approximately twelve local M&E consultants, only received one quote and follow up call from QODA. This was followed up with a walk around at the Recreation Ground with consultant, Cllr McKeown and RFO.</p> <p>Ideally three quotes needed before selecting contractor. Committee noted that only one response was received and accepted for the post of Tree Officer, whether similar reasons might be possible in order to appoint one respondent. Cllr McKeown noted that the quote for work received was £10,800 which is above the £6,000 previously agreed, so the additional benchmark another quote would provide would be useful. Some savings may be achieved on the current quotation. QODA do a lot of work for Norfolk County Council. Cllr McKeown had two more contacts for possible quotes and the committee agreed to contact them, giving them a week to confirm interest and then a reasonable deadline for the quote.</p> <p>Cllr Adam asked how the scope of this exercise compared with 2019 survey, Cllr McKeown explained this survey would give a bigger picture for the whole site. Cllr Murray asked if the exercise supported the Rec Development Group (RDG) and Cllr McKeown confirmed this and outlined that it would provide data, and that the retrofit on any building replacement would be viewed by the committee as essential. Cllr Murray noted this begins a direction of travel for planning and that M&E data/retrofitting support would enhance HIPC credibility. Cllr Adam asked about a split of time/cost, noting there was an element of data collection and then more skilled interpretation. There was also the potential for the contract to provide two options/scenarios instead of three.</p> <p>Noting the work already done to obtain more quotes, the Committee agreed to take some reasonable further action (advertising on website and contacting other contacts) to obtain additional quotes, but also that if no additional quotes received the recommendation would be put to Full Council to proceed with QODA.</p> <p>Committee also agreed to request additional funding from Full Council as needed (subject to agreeing final quote with QODA or any other contractors from whom quote received). It would also request that this go alongside RDG motions on the March agenda since this is vital to inform the work of the RDG.</p>	
035.6	<p>Pat Fleet Memorial bench Cllr Wilbraham keen to move forward. Cllr Smith to ask Cllr Cahn to assist with this. Cllr Adam asked if dates on design are correct?</p>	
035.7	<p>Project 12 in the Local Plan/Local Biodiversity Action Plan (to note) Deferred to next meeting, with e-mail update to be provided to Committee.</p>	
035.8	<p>HI Pump track – discussion on N&B sites suggested, maps and rubric (Appx 2) Rational for agenda items given by Cllr Smith. Some proposed sites of interest to N&B Committee, Cllr Smith felt Committee could provide useful input and she was keen to capture any useful comments on sites. Cllr McKeown gave background and timeline on project. June 23 – Charity Commission allowed group to become charity and it is now a legal entity that can purchase or lease land. Late last year a public consultation on locations was run to include all community suggestions. Cllr McKeown outlined rational of scoring rubric provided. Cllr McKeown confirmed a revised ranking and proposals will be brought to March Full Council.</p>	

035.9	<p>Cllr McKeown suggested that in the revised ranking that would be presented to the Parish Council it was looking like the Recreation Ground would be the highest ranking site but with other sites also in the running. He noted HIPC have confirmed they want to back this project and the huge support from youngsters and others in the village. A pump track on a HIPC plot is likely to be the simplest route to delivery. Cllr McKeown noted concerns regarding tarmac on any site. HI Pump Track support Biodiversity Net Gain and there is lots of potential for some really nice biodiversity gains (e.g. sympathetic planting, building up insect banks, co-benefits for biodiversity and water run off). Joint statement on Biodiversity as a priority would be useful from HIPC and HI Pump Track. Cllr Adam asked if there were any ideas about size of areas of tarmac, and noted important data for context. Cllr McKeown notes area score estimated 50% of area may be tarmac. Larger site allows more sympathetic planning e.g. excitement about potential of designing within trees.</p> <p>Discussed grant funding to support biodiversity in pump track. It was noted that the Masterplan created for the RDG had included an option which showed a possible pump track location at the Recreation ground, although this affected other users of the facilities.</p> <p>Cllr Smith reported from her meeting with the Wildlife Trust representative on Manor Park Field who gave useful views on the current status of the meadow, ideas for biodiversity/meadow enhancement and (on a very informal basis) potential ways to look at the possibility for Biodiversity Net Gain alongside a pump track. The Committee noted a pump track could potentially provide leverage for biodiversity gains.</p> <p>In conclusion, the N&B Committee welcome and support further discussion on all HIPC sites under the N&B remit, and hoped that HIPC as a whole would be open to discussion on all of its sites. It is excited by opportunities for biodiversity co-benefits that it believes a well-designed pump track could bring to our villages.</p> <p>Climate Action Plan Brief update from Cllr Smith. This requires dedicated time that has been difficult to find but will be a high priority in coming months. Cambridge Carbon Footprint have offered help and meeting to be arranged.</p>	
NB23/036 036.1	<p>To discuss and consider Section 106 Public Art Projects Item deferred, Cllr Smith to discuss with Cllr Cahn.</p>	
NB23/037 037.1 037.2	<p>Other matters Request from resident re Platform for ducks at the Green Deferred to next agenda. Cllr Smith to investigate suggestion further and respond to resident.</p> <p>HDFS have formed an allotment working party and would like to offer two spaces to N&B Cllrs Murray and McKeown gave some brief background. Cllr Murray and Cllr Smith agreed to join the working group.</p>	
NB23/038	<p><u>Communicating the November 23 Nature and Biodiversity Committee Meeting and Request Matters For Next Agenda</u></p> <p>Cllr Smith and Cllr Murray to prepare.</p> <p><u>Next Agenda</u> : Climate Action Plan; Public Art projects and workshop; Request for platform for Ducks at the Green.</p>	
NB23/039	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 30th April 2024 Meeting closed: 21.12 p.m.</p> <p>Appendix 1 : Minutes of 14th November Appendix 2: Pump Track Rubric and map</p>	

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