

**Minutes of Histon & Impington Nature & Biodiversity**  
**7:30pm, Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024**  
**Community Room, Recreation Ground, New Road, Impington**

**Nature & Biodiversity Committee Minutes**

Membership: 6 + 2 ex-officio

Appendices: 3      Quorum: 3

<b>Agenda No:</b>	<b>Present:</b> Cllrs: Joseph Adam, Sarah Smith (Chair) <b>Ex Officio Members:</b> Cllrs: Yvonne Murray <b>Clerk:</b> Theresa King <b>Tree Officer:</b> Daphne Fisher  <b>3 vacancies</b>	
<b>NB24/007</b> <b>007.1</b>	<b>Election of Committee Chair</b>  Councillor Murray opened meeting as Chair of Council. Cllr Murray proposes Cllr Smith, Cllr Adam seconded, <b>all in favour</b> . Cllr Smith Chair of Nature and Biodiversity Committee.	
<b>NB24/008</b> <b>008.1</b>	<b>To Co-opt representatives of Hi Trees and HICOP, and HI Sustainability</b>  No members of the groups were present, item deferred to next meeting.	
<b>NB24/009</b> <b>009.1</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Cllr Tom McKeown (personal), Cllr Stonham (apologies), Dan Mace (HI Trees/HICOP)	
<b>NB24/010</b> <b>010.1</b>	<b>MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</b>  None declared.	
<b>NB24/011</b> <b>011.1</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>  Two members of public present.	
<b>NB24/012</b> <b>012.1</b>	<b>To Approve minutes of the meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 (Appendix 1)</b> Minutes of 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 – proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Adam, <b>all in favour</b> to approve. Minutes of 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024 – proposed Cllr Murray, seconded Cllr Adam, <b>all in favour</b> to approve, 1 abstention.	
<b>NB24/013</b> <b>013.1</b>	<b>Matters Arising from Previous Meetings – discussed as agenda items.</b>	
<b>NB24/014</b> <b>014.1</b>  <b>014.2</b>	<b><u>To receive project updates and review items</u></b>  <b>To receive update on M&amp;E Consultant work</b> RFO verbally updated Committee. Cllr McKeown and RFO had met with consultants who had undertaken work to begin desktop survey, Utilities information was also provided. Initial report now received. Some questions on next steps, Committee to review and feedback information to Cllr McKeown. Cllr Adam queried whether any budgets had been allocated for any works as an outcome of the report, RFO confirmed not. Cllr Adam also suggested sharing report with Rec Development Group.  <b>To receive update on Project 12 in the Local Plan/Local Biodiversity Action Plan</b> Cllr Smith provided a verbal update. Consultant had collected biodiversity data and was preparing it to present to Committee in maps and reports. Intention to present findings at a community workshop. Discussion was being held on whether data should be stored in such as way to allow others to update data. Some information has already been provided on several species groups by residents, and Histon and Impington Green Spaces (HIGS) have helped too. Consultant has a copy of parishes' data from Cambridge and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC) but this may not be up to date so a fresh copy to be requested.	<b>All</b>

	<p>Cllr Murray asked whether information would be used to inform what the Council is doing, Cllr Smith said it would help to form a Nature Recovery Strategy for the villages. Although funding agreed for consultant to do second phase of work, Cllr Smith suggested it should be a two-phase project with a review after the first stage before proceeding with second.</p> <p>Meeting suspended to allow resident to speak to item.</p> <p>Simon Payne from HIGS said that the Consultant had been working with the group and had been overwhelmed with the amount of data received. HIGS are currently undertaking a Connecting with Nature project and have offered to help with focusing in on things that are going to have the most benefit in the meeting. Cllr Smith said that making the data updateable by others would be difficult to maintain and therefore suggested the data be seen as a snapshot, then point people to the relevant database. Simon Payne also highlighted that Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) was now part of the planning process with South Cambs District Council (SCDC) and that if anyone had lands that they wished to register for net gain benefits, they would need to ensure that information was shared with the SCDC environmental team.</p> <p>Meeting reinstated.</p> <p>With the agreement of the Committee, items 017 and 019 were brought forward.</p>	
<p><b>NB24/015</b></p> <p><b>015.1</b></p>	<p><b>Tree works as a result of tree surveys and Tree Officer initial survey</b></p> <p>Meeting suspended to allow Tree Officer to speak to items</p> <p><b>To receive update on tree works and scheduling</b>  RFO and Tree Officer had worked on reviewing surveys and sites, then obtaining quotes and processing order, The volume of work was extensive, and once orders were placed, permissions for work on any trees with tree Protection Orders had to be obtained, which had meant work had been delayed into nesting season. The Tree Officer then gave a brief update on the sites.</p> <p>Work on trees near Manor Field had been completed except for two trees, one with a bird box on it and a nearby tree. Work on these trees to be undertaken in September. Tree Officer noted that in this site as in some of the others, more trees have since failed or begun to show signs of deterioration, meaning more work will need to be scheduled after this initial tranche.</p> <p>At the Village Green, deadwood had been removed in a lime tree, and a large Horse Chestnut felled due to decay spreading at the base. Residents had seemed content with publicity and information on the work. The sump had been left uneven, so cut down further, revealing the extent of cavity of decay; if had been left higher, the seat would have been over a hole.</p> <p>At Homefield Park, no arisings had been removed as it was too wet on the day. Work was also incomplete as a tree had been missed. Awaiting finish date.</p> <p>Work at the Recreation Ground started 24<sup>th</sup> June. There is a bird box in one tree, so that tree and three surrounding ones will be left as near to box; RSPB expert identified 6 fledglings in the box with at least a week left before fledging.</p> <p>The Coppice work also started on 24<sup>th</sup> June. One tree, a large horse chestnut (T005 on Hayden’s survey), originally thought to be sound is now showing major signs of failure, so emergency work has been approved to remove the southern stem. As this stem reaches over Cambridge Road it is felt that it needs remedial work quickly, so a 5- day notice has been applied for. The Tree Officer questioned whether the current road gate was still required for access as the location could make a good natural habitat; RFO to check but expressed concern re access being needed.</p> <p>Additionally, the large Horse Chestnut tree at the corner of Burroughfield and The</p>	<p><b>RFO</b></p>

	<p>Coppice has not yet been quoted for work as there was consideration of whether it was a ancient tree or not, and various visits by contractors and experts have happened in order to decide how the tree should be treated. It is a large tree and parts are over pathways and roads, but it has bleeding canker and has been seen to be declining in health as the seasons progress. The Tree Officer recommends it becomes a habitat monolith. As an important tree, the committee felt a discussion should be had with residents outlining our proposal and quotes be obtained before any work was decided upon.</p> <p>Work at The Copse is due to start week beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. This will leave work at The War Memorial, Clay Close Lane Pocket Park and Doctor's Close as the last areas from the first tranche to be quoted for and work awarded.</p> <p>Meeting reinstated.</p> <p>RFO highlighted that more work would be needed after this initial phase of works as Tree Officer had seen more trees requiring work, and that the current contract for the Tree Officer runs out in September. Cllr Smith suggested a review of the current contract was undertaken, and reviewed by the committee, before a recommendation was made to Full Council in July. Delegated to RFO and Chair to review, create a report and circulate for comments before presenting to Full Council.</p> <p><b>015.2 To agree action on Beech tree at entrance to the Coppice after discussion with residents</b></p> <p>Tree T009 on Haydens survey is a large tree in a prominent position at the entrance to the Coppice, and much work has been done to consult with residents, discussing options between pollarding and removing completely. Residents felt felling and then replanting with a suitable tree was the best option. Quotes received from tree contractors for both pollarding and felling of tree; felling quotes were Contractor 1 £700, Contractor 2 £800 + VAT, and Contractor 3 £1,000 + VAT.</p> <p>Recommendation from RFO was to accept the quote from Contractor 3 as this contractor had provided a lot of information for ourselves and residents regarding the tree before decisions were made, and they had the expertise to undertake the work as part of the schedule of works they were already doing in the area. Contractor 3 had also recommended putting the request for permission to fell in as a 5-days notice as tree is in decline and over a path and roadway.</p> <p>All agreed to select contractor 3 to undertake the work. RFO to process order for work,</p>	<p><b>SS, RFO Full Council</b></p>
<p><b>015.3</b></p>	<p><b>To consider and agree recommendation of Tree Officer regarding replanting question on applications for work on trees with Protection Orders</b></p> <p>Meeting suspended to allow resident to talk.</p> <p>Some of the permission for work on trees form SCDC had included replanting options. Tree Officer had noticed that there was a box that allowed comments to be added regarding replanting at the time of application and suggested that some standard text could be provided to contractors so that this box could be filled in so that the Committee had more choice in replanting options.</p> <p>Meeting reinstated.</p> <p><b>All in favour</b> to accept recommendation. Tree Officer to work with RFO to generate text and then circulate to contractors.</p>	<p><b>RFO</b></p> <p><b>RFO/Tree Officer</b></p>
<p><b>NB24/016</b></p> <p><b>016.1</b></p>	<p><b>To consider work required on trees edging the road at Burroughfield and agree next steps (Appendix 2)</b></p> <p>Notifications received from residents of Burroughfield on trees overhanging the roadway, and historic issues with tree branches landing on driveways. Tree Officer had provided a</p>	

	<p>survey of the trees, map and potential schedule of work as it was felt that a long-term solution was needed as there were too many trees for the area and thinning would allow fewer trees to grow larger. Some trees were also leaning so strongly over the highway that almost all of the stem of the trees was leaning over the highway and removing the tree would be the better option.</p> <p>As there are so many trees and decisions need to be made, Cllr Smith recommended delegating discussion and decisions on how to proceed to Cllr Smith, Cllr McKeown and RFO, working with the Tree Officer. <b>All in favour.</b> Cllr Smith highlighted need to work again with residents.</p>	<b>RFO, SS TM, Tree Officer</b>
<b>NB24/017</b>	<p><b>To discuss request to work with HIGS on Connecting with Nature project (Appendix 3)</b></p> <p><b>Meeting suspended to allow resident to talk on item.</b></p> <p>Simon Payne of HIGS spoke and noted he had worked in planning for many years. HIGS would like to work with the Council on a Connecting with Nature project.</p> <p>HIGS have already held a workshop, asking residents to say what was special about nature in the area, think what could be improved, and they received 68 ideas from this, many outline in the appendix report submitted to the Committee. They would like to bring a fuller report to Nature in Autumn, and look at possible collaborative working and possible funding requests. Simon said that there was an amazing reserve in people who work in the villages, that many experts were residents. The workshop identified three major objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Wildlife corridors – enhance and improve, create a local Nature Recovery Plan;</li> <li>b) The way in which land is managed; to review all land, including gardens and farmland and consider whether everything is being done to maintain these e.g. watercourses</li> <li>c) Give advice and information to manage land in a “better” way</li> </ol> <p>Simon outline the motion that the committee note the workshop feedback, obtain feedback from Committee, and agree to work with HIGS on a way forward.</p> <p>Cllr Murray thanked HIGS for their work with other groups, and said she hoped it goes further. Simon Payne outlined possible extensions of plans to cover Hi Woods, Girton Woods, and land towards Oakington. The hope was the broaden the perspective and create short and long term actions.</p> <p><b>Meeting reinstated.</b></p> <p>Cllr Smith thanked HIGS for offering to help towards us developing a Nature Recovery Plan. She suggested that the Committee consider the schedule of suggestions in more detail at a later workshop. Then the Council needs to consider how we proceed, what format projects take, and have longer discussion with HIGS and other interested Parish Council Councillors. Possibly the items in the list might be used to suggest new Committee projects as well as inform existing ones. Cllr Smith asked everyone to consider the list and give any initial feedback.</p> <p><b>All in favour to approve motion.</b></p>	<b>SS</b>          <b>All</b>
<b>NB24/018</b> <b>018.1</b>	<p><b>To agree to review Tree strategy to inform tree policy and include strategy on deadwood</b></p> <p>Tree Policy was created in 2012 and has not been fully reviewed since. Cllr Smith suggested inviting other interested parties such as members of other committees to comment so this could be added in to the policy. Tree Officer had already drafted a policy on deadwood which Cllr Smith suggested could be added as appendixes to the policy. The policy should reflect changes in tree works decisions which reflect the nature and biodiversity aspects of requirements. It was thought the policy should also include the rational for doing work in nesting season and precautions that would be taken as well as comments on replanting.</p>	

	Cllr Smith proposed that the Committee prepare a draft policy for circulation at September Full Council and invite all council to provide feedback – proposes Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Murray, all in favour.	<b>All September Full Council</b>
<b>NB24/019</b>	<b>Other matters</b>	
<b>019.1</b>	<b>To consider request from Hi Sustainability for funding for a stall at the Farmer’s Market for HI Sustainability</b> Cllr Murray gave update on request received from HI Sustainability for funding to attend the Farmer’s Market sessions on the third Saturday of the month. During Eco Fest the group had had a stall and had lots of good feedback from residents, giving good community engagement. The group now wanted to attend all eleven markets in the year at £15 per meeting, total £165.0. The Parish Council had supported the group in with the Eco Fest in the previous year and had budget for supporting village groups. Proposed Cllr Murray, seconded Cllr Adam, all in favour to agree contribution. Cllr Smith suggested Parish Council could partner with HI Sus at one or two of the stalls if they are willing.	
<b>019.2</b>	<b>To discuss and consider request from resident re platform for ducks at the Green – item removed as to be considered as part of a project working with HIGS</b> Item noted.	
<b>NB24/020</b>	<b><u>Communicating the June 24 Nature and Biodiversity Committee Meeting and Request Matters For Next Agenda</u></b>  <b>Communication:</b> None Required.  <b>Next agenda:</b> To Co-opt representatives of Hi Trees and HICOP, and HI Sustainability; Climate action Plan; To discuss and consider Section 106 Public Art projects and workshop including update on Pat Fleet Memorial Bench. .	
<b>NB24/019</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b> <b>Meeting close: 9.00 p.m.</b>  <b>Appendix 1 : Minutes of the meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024</b> <b>Appendix 2: Work at Burroughfield report and map</b> <b>Appendix 3: HIGS Connecting with Nature Report</b>	