

Halesworth Millennium Green Trust

Registered charity no. 1079518



Notes from Trustees' Meeting

held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 3rd October 2016

at Brook House, Quay Street, Halesworth

Present

Trustees: John Bainer, Don Foster, Paul Hyden, Sal Jenkinson, Nicky Rowbottom, Richard Woolnough

Secretary: Judith Woolnough

1. There were no **Apologies**

2. The **Notes** of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. New Trustee

Paul Hyden was welcomed to the meeting. He had already agreed to be a Trustee and his appointment was then nominated by Nicky Rowbottom, seconded by Don Foster and agreed by all.

4. Finance

a. John gave an update of the accounts during the last year – general income was £5742 and expenditure £3815. These amounts do not include the remaining Awards for All funding that had been spent on the Signage Project or a grant received from Adnams of £1500 towards the storage containers. Since then a grant of £2895 from Awards for All had been received towards the containers.

b. It was agreed to add a column to the accounts sheet for New Reach as there is a Reserve Fund for this project.

Judith would send John details of the money already spent from the money received from the Town Council.

c. **Judith** would send John details of Richard's maintenance expenditure so this could go into the relevant columns, ie mowing, grazing, maintenance, to clarify how much is actually spent on these items.

d. The following Financial Reserve Policy of £24,000, updated from November 2014, was agreed by all:

The reserve is to provide for:

- Phased Replacement of capital items:
Cattle Fencing and Gates now 16 years old
(3000 metres @ £10 per m. £30,000) Allow £5000
Mowers:
Ride-on rotary mower; reciprocating blade mower; flail mower;
hand propelled rotary mower (total replacement value £4000) Allow £5000
- One years running costs in reserve Allow £3000
- Extraordinary items
such as emergency tree surgery and river clearance Allow £2000
- Repair of the all-weather Track installed in 2013
which the Trust is contracted (to Sustrans) to maintain
for a period of 20 years ending on 11th May 2034 Allow £9000

It is Trust policy not to draw on this Reserve for other purposes except in urgent or exceptional circumstances. The Trust is committed to fundraising for projects above and beyond the maintenance provisions covered by this Reserve.

5. Management

a. Tool Storage Report

Sal had notified Natural England of the siting of two storage containers and was waiting for a reply from their solicitors. She would contact them again in a few days and when their favourable reply had been received it was agreed that **Paul** should order the containers.

The designated area in Lester's Piece would be prepared and footings installed during Wednesday work parties.

Paul gave Judith the Planning Permission documents for safe keeping.

John confirmed that insurance for the contents was in place but not for the containers themselves.

b. New Reach

At the recent meeting of Trustees with the New Reach Working Group the 5 year work programme was discussed. The Trustees confirmed that the New Reach Fund received from the Town Council was ring-fenced and that the Trustees had always been in favour of the recreational use of the New Reach. There had been a report of Japanese Knotweed outside Blyth mews and Graham Peck would be asked to verify this as it is a Notifiable Weed.

c. Draft Policy on the Introduction of Plants

The Policy was discussed and all agreed that this should be implemented regardless of what had been planted in the past. **Sal** would update the document and this would be added to the website.

d. Update on Chestnut meadow

It was agreed that other overgrown areas of the Green ie Two Acres, parts of Angel meadow and the small piece opposite wherry field (*Lily field*) should be considered at the same time.

It was agreed that Two Acres could be cut by machinery as entry could be made with permission through Gwen Woolner's land. **Sal** would contact Sustrans regarding the ownership transfer of Two Acres to the Trust.

Machinery could also get into *Lily field* via Folly meadow by taking down some fencing.

Richard would ask Henry Cliff and Mark Mayhew if they would be able to give Chestnut meadow a restoration cut.

The remaining problem was how to deal with the cut material – one suggestion was to have a Community Day involving other local people as well as the Vols together with specific groups in the town and other local conservation bodies.

It was agreed to ask the visitors to the Annual Meeting what they would like done with the overgrown areas.

6. Annual Open meeting

This is to be held on Sunday 23rd October between 10 and 1 with various displays and light refreshments. **Nicky** is devising a Treasure Hunt and Quiz.

Nicky would ask James of the Geocash if he would like to take part in the meeting.

7. New Trustees

It was agreed there are a good number at present but names could always be put forward for the future.

8. Village Green status

Sal gave a comprehensive description of Village Greens and the New Reach in particular.

The map that accompanied the registration documents would be circulated to the Trustees.

It was agreed that the Trustees feel like the custodians of the New Reach but not legally responsible as Waveney District Council's legal advisers had accepted ownership lies with them.

The Trustees are very grateful for WDC's quick response in dealing with any fallen trees.

The New Reach Management Report would be sent to the Town and District Councils.

9. Any Other Business

a. Paul told the Trustees' that the Millennium Green's name had been added to a letter against the Hopkins Homes' proposals on land adjacent to Hill Farm Road. Paul and Richard would be attending the Public Consultation on 6th October.

Trustees were reminded that Wilfrid George had agreed with Mr Bensley when the Hill Farm estate was being built that its storm water could go down the drift and across Rails' End, towards the marshes, in exchange for use of that drift as a public footpath. (An application to designate this path as a Public Right of Way would be made.) Now developers have to provide a balancing pond so there should be no concern about storm water running towards the Green.

b. **Sal** would congratulate Mark for keeping the cattle on one meadow at a time this year as promised.

c. All agreed not to mend and return Mick's picnic bench to the Green and **Sal** would ask him if he would like it back or disposed of.

d. **Nicky** confirmed she would write a proposal for a sign for the Orchard.

10. The **next meeting** would be held at Brook House on Monday 16th January 2017 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9pm with thanks to John for his kind hospitality.