**Halesworth Millennium Green Trust**

Registered charity no. 1079518

**Minutes of a Trustees’ Meeting**

**Held at Brook House, Halesworth**

**on Friday 11th May 2018 at 10 am**

**Present**

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

Secretary: Sue Bainer

1. Apologies: Paul Hyden
2. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record. Matters arising: SB asked DF to sign the grazier’s contract and SB will return his signed copy to him. **Action: SB**
3. **Finance:** JB circulated a report and confirmed that income is very good and the balance is very good. JB also pointed out that the Lottery will not require an end of project report following his telephone discussion with them. The main expense is the insurance, printing, a new mower and new tools. RW asked if Mike had provided an invoice for the weed killing on the cycle route and JB confirmed this had not happened.
4. Management Report: In PH’s absence RW presented the management group meeting report. SJ then reported on the Railway Trust and advised that there had been resignations of the leaders of this group and so the group plans had changed but they had confirmed they will strim the MG site. They want MG permission to go forward with their plans but not under the auspices of SRT. Any work they plan to do would come under HMG insurance. PH will be asked to manage the situation. DF/PH met with Toby to discuss the notice board that is to go up in future and they away SRT input. DF talked about tools and the need for a trailer to go behind the mower and it was agreed this is a good idea. It was agreed the trustees need to have a idea of cost and PH should get a quote and submit this to the Trustees but in principle this can go ahead. SJ asked about the work at White Bridge that appears to have been halted and NR will discuss this with Annette. **Action: PH**
5. NRWG and Town plans: RW reported on a scheme to changed the water courses.
6. Purchasing of Two Acres: SJ circulated a report on her meeting with the solicitor regarding the problem of dumping and contamination on the land. A general discussion took place and DF felt we do not need to spend £1000 on soil samples and this was agreed. SJ pointed out this is low on Sustrans priorities and might take another year to complete. JB ask what the professional advice fees are likely to be. SJ confirmed that it might be £200 at the most as her discussion was only for 20 minutes but later she found that there would be no legal fees.
7. Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship Grant: NR circulated a report. SJ and NR had taken a day to consider this document and confirmed it is very difficult. HMG do not appear to have any of the priority species mentioned and Halesworth is on the boundary of Area 83. In point 9, the hedgerow gapping is something we could consider. RW pointed out there was a hawthorn hedge that could be reestablished and a blackthorn thicket on the opposite side of the railway track that could be included. It would require fencing on both sides to prevent cattle getting in. NR pointed out we would get £9.50 a metre to help with this. It was agreed that work under the Yellow Fish project could come into this too so it might be covered by that grant should it come through. A general discussion took place about the Yellow Fish Project that is with the Environment Agency as they need to approve it. SJ said it is all about biodiversity and that she had met the Yellow Fish people on site and they keen on tree planting and a groundwork project aimed at changing the waterways to protect fish. This is a major project and the work will highlight the issues with pollution. They would plan to reinstate the course of the river to follow the 1844 map. This is a big capital project and SJ sent them information to support the bid. HMG will support the project but we need local consultation. RW pointed out that dumping all the material from the flood plain might be an issue. SJ wondered if it was possible to put that project to the mid tier grant. RW felt that if we could agree to do something to Halesworth water courses to improve biodiversity this would be very advantageous as our river is not very good and has deteriorated over the last 50 years. A general discussion took place regarding which stretches of river we are talking about and it was agreed that digging the river out to lock depth and making it flow will be an very expensive proposition and would need footbridges to be added. It was concluded that we have a project that is worth applying for and we will get the pack that has to be requested before 31 May 2018 and register our interest under the heading of historic environment/landscape changes. This is a big push for the environment agency and further discussions will need to be undertaken. SJ advised that the application will have gone in now and that we can get back to them in the future with more detail. SJ confirmed she will flag up our concerns to David Spark now. JB asked who is going to fund all this proposed work. SJ advised it would be government funding (grant aid) and a European Directive under the Water Framework Directive. **Action: SJ/RW**
8. AOB: NR updated the trustees on her water vole project that had been taking place on the Green over the past two weeks. NR advised that the first session did not provide any clues to the water voles whereabouts but the 2nd session found masses of latrines and feeding sites for voles. They will continue to search on other parts of the Green and the ditches are proving to be very exciting. Added to this they discovered what appears to be a bomb and the trustees agreed a photo should be sent to the police for identification purposes. Action: NR/PH. SJ talked about events and mentioned an ecco talk being held in the Church Hall called Ecology for Everyone. The audience will be the HMG volunteers and it will be based on “why do we do what we do”. SJ also pointed out that the HMG annual open meeting is coming up and we need to firm up on a date for this event. It was agreed that a 3-4 day exhibition would be held in the Library followed by a meeting on the Green to attract more people to see what HMG does. It was agreed to do this on Sunday 22nd July 2018 at 10.30 am with the exhibition running from the previous Wed-Saturday. SJ agreed to talk to Ali in the Library to arrange the details. RW asked about the annual barbecue and wondered whether volunteers really want this. SJ suggested perhaps a picnic lunch on a Wednesday might be preferable. DF suggested asking PH to find out what his vounteers would prefer and to invite them to the Ecco evening on June 6th. NR suggested we might go out for a meal at Christmas or a harvest supper in October. DF sent his apologies for June 6th as he will be away. JB confirmed that the secretarial/admin role needs clarification and it might be necessary to employ someone part time to undertake some of the day to day work. SB to go through the job description and divide the duties so that a job specification can be given to any interested parties. SB advised that an email had been received from Eagle Vets about an art competition they are running this summer to raise money for the local community and they thought that HMG is a good community project to support. SB to write to them thanking them very much and suggesting they target voles and look on the HMG website for any photos if they want to have a theme.

**Action: SJ/PH/SB**

1. The meeting closed at 11.45 pm. The date of the next meeting is **5th October 2018 at 10 am** at Brook House.