

Brundall Parish Council Environment Committee

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 17th August 2023 at 19:00 at the Memorial Hall Lounge



Present: Cllr Joe Warns (Chairman), Chris Muskett, Tim Strudwick, Edie Wozniakowski, Cllr Graham Abbott, Clerk Sharon Smyth		
	<i>Details</i>	<i>Action</i>
EV038	Housekeeping The Chairman of the Meeting thanked everyone for attending and advised the safety procedures for the room.	
EV039	Apologies for Absence Cllr John Warne, Richard Farley. Emma King has been absent for over 6 months and so is automatically disqualified from the Committee.	
EV040	Minutes of the previous Meeting dated 11 May 2023 It was resolved by a unanimous decision that the Minutes were accurate.	
EV041	Declarations of Disclosable (DPI) or Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (NDPI) none.	
EV042	Actions from the Last Meeting (Not on the Agenda) EV028 – The Air Quality Report is on the Council's website. EV028 Chris Muskett circulated his summary report on the Air Quality presentation. EV033 Church Fen – the dikes may contain mercury in the sediment due to a pollution issue from a May and Baker spillage in 1980. Testing is recommended from a core sample at a certain depth. Tim advised that the sediment quality may affect the plans to use it for the path resurfacing. It could be sticky and unpleasant. If possible, consideration to import would be far better. Planning permission may be required and consent from the EA. It may be advantageous to try to get consent for the whole length of the path. EV034 – Cremers Pond water quality is still ongoing. The quality is due to nutrient input from the arable land surrounding the site. (Nitrate phosphates). Sediments then create a too-nutrient rich environment in the pond. If water quality is to be monitored then accurate, regular readings need to be carried out. In 2-3 years, the data collected will be more reliable. The meadow is showing signs of sediment infiltration from the pond – robust plants are starting to take over parts of the meadow. Keeping the pond level higher than the stream would help. Water samples for the dike/stream have been taken by the EA. The costs of the test tubes need to be factored in and it is recommended to use the more expensive ones as they are more accurate. Dredging the pond and leaving sediment on site is cheaper. Using a tanker to remove is expensive and impractical. Once Chris has composed the reports this will enable the Friends/Council to get more of a steer on possible actions/monitoring strategy from the BWG. Eddie will try to obtain exact costs for tubes and lab testing.* (Looking at a cost of around £5k). Eddie will contact the Norfolk Pond Project to get more advice.* Graham and John Richardson have plans to monitor the water levels in the pond and email the results through to this Committee on the first week of each month.*	*EW *EW *GA

EV043	Update from the Tree Warden Network Richard had apologised for this meeting and was not present to give any updates.	
EV044	Biodiversity Working Group Report Phase 1 Habitat Surveys Eddie reported that the sites had now been visited and mapped in accordance with the Joint Nature Conservancy Council guidelines. The Survey had been done for the four sites. About 60% has been mapped according to the findings and will be available to view in the upcoming report. Observations to date show that Church Fen has had some movements since the 2015 survey. Some areas are wetter and some drier. Low Farm Wood – when surveyed in 2015 there were mature hedging and huge trees in the mid F shaped area with lots of interesting species. The good work carried out by the Tree Network has not altered the structure of the woodland. The Countryside Park mapping done previously had exaggerated the width of the paths so when the new mapping is done this will be corrected. The changes in the Cremers site show a change in the wetness of the Fen, the orchid areas. The drier areas of the meadow are beginning to be occupied by meadowsweet as well as <i>Glyceria maxima</i>. This may need monitoring as this could affect orchid numbers. The mowing regime can be discussed at the next Friends meeting. Phase 2 habitat Survey will be looking at sub habitats, but this may be a long time coming, but the group will update the species list from the 2015 survey. The Countryside Park diversity is wonderful to assess as it has such diverse areas so there will be much to report. Biodiversity Audit Progress/Breeding Birds survey Tim has been trawling through existing records and desk top studies that are available online. (10,000 records for Brundall with two thousand species recorded). The dataset BTO (birds), and the RSPB surveys showed that the most recorded bird is the blackbird. There will be a report on birds, butterflies, and bees/wasps then plants. There will not be any invertebrate species recorded. In Phase 2 which may begin in 2024 the public will be asked to get involved to record and we could commission reports from specialists. It was noted that this could feed into the Council's Neighbourhood Plan for protection of certain areas in Brundall. Tim has carried out surveys at the Countryside Park, Low Farm Wood, and Finch Way with five visits to each site early morning with mapping of results. The Countryside Park is a young woodland so not yet colonised. However, goldfinches and long tailed tits were observed in the young woodland. Low Farm Wood has mature (valuable) hedgerows more prevalent in the west and north of the site. The southern stretch is sparser. The field scabious plant was observed so gives rise to the rare large scabious mining bee which had declined since the 1800's but is now recovering. The Report content sheet was shown to the Committee to indicate how the Report will be structured.	
EV045	Countryside Park –creation of an Environment paper ahead of a request to purchase the site.	BWG/Clerk

	The Group will start to look at composing the report with a biodiversity angle but needs to know what the exact timescales are. * The Clerk will find out the deadline but said that the next Council meeting is on 25th September.* Graham stated the importance of this Committee's environmental input to evidence the Council's case.	
EV046	General Public Participation None	
EV047	Items for the Next Agenda None	
EV048	Date for the next meeting(s) 9 November 2023 15 February 2024 The meeting finished at 9pm.	
Signed as a true record Date		