

Draft Minutes **Environment Committee** held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 at 7pm at Brundall Memorial Hall

**In attendance:** Cllr J Warns (Chair), Cllr G Buckley, Chris Muskett

**Deputy Clerk:** Clare Watkins

**Members of the public:** 0

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Duncan Painter, Tim Strudwick and Cllr L Mogford

**No apologies were received from Cllr P Woodridge (DC sent email 20/05 following the Annual meeting of the Parish Council, reiterating Committee structure. No reply)**

**2 To elect a chairperson following the Annual Parish County Meeting**

Cllr G Buckley proposed Cllr J Warns remain as chair, this was seconded by Chris Muskett.

**3 Declarations of interest on items on the Agenda**

None

**4 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February**

The minutes were AGREED as a true and correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

**5 Updates from the last meeting (not on the agenda) and any further actions required**

Following the findings of the BWG survey that there was a decline in Goldfinches at the Allotment site, the Tenancy Agreement, Schedule 1 has been amended to allow trees to grow to 3m as opposed to 2m tall as long as they don't shade neighbouring plots. The fruit trees that are not in individual plots will be left to grow for the Goldfinches to nest in.

It was AGREED by the LM Committee that the space between the Biodiversity Improvement areas at the Cemetery could be used as a Gifted Bench location.

It was AGREED by the LM Committee that if suitable the land outside the Sports Hub, the verges could be used as a Biodiversity Improvement site.

**All noted**

**6 Public Participation**

None

**7 To receive a report on activities by the Biodiversity Working Group**

The Cemetery Biodiversity improvement area is blooming.  
The proposed pond at the Countryside Park is covered in item 9.

**8 To receive an update from the Church Fen Working Group.**

The Church Fen Working Group are meeting again on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

DC CW and Duncan Painter met an ecologist from the Broads Authority at Church Fen to discuss possible solutions to slow riverbank erosion on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

A pre planning application for pilot work on the Eastern Path was submitted to the Broads Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> April at a cost of £37.50.

#### **9 Countryside Park Proposed Pond, update, change of location.**

A full planning application is required to be submitted to Broadland District Council, which needs to include a Biodiversity net gain report, an Ecological report and a Surface Water Flood risk assessment as the proposed location is just inside the surface water flood plain.

Members of the Land Management Committee met the BWG at the park to agree alternative locations on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. The Clerk has been asked to enquire if a Surface Water risk assessment is still required if the pond location is moved. The planning application will be ready to be submitted by the first week of June. The planning authority will then probably take a couple of months to consider it; however, it was AGREED to chase after 4 weeks of submitting the application. The pond needs to be constructed by late September, or the window for this year will be lost, so this is now a race against time.

A decision regarding a contractor is now required. There are two contractors willing to take on the work at a cost of £9000. The contractor will be AGREED at the Land Management meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

Cllr J Warns requested that the proposed pond at the Countryside Park be on the Full Council agenda for June to make all Cllrs aware of the urgency.

#### **10 Gardening for Nature event update**

This event is on hold for now.

#### **11 Brundall Village Park update**

The designers for the park have been selected. Cllr G Buckley explained the in-depth selection process. The contract with the chosen designers cannot be signed due to a delay with finalising a variation to the S106 agreement. This is nearly complete but needs approval from HSBC. Everyone is keen to get on the site to see what they are dealing with. Tim Strudwick has all the information on surveys the BWG has undertaken.

Cllr G Buckley believes the park will be in situ by 2028. Once the first few houses are occupied the Council will receive funding for the design of the Park, the land and funds for implementation will be handed over when between 49 and 69 houses are occupied and funds for maintenance of the land will be received when half the houses are occupied. If the tight deadlines are not met there will not be as much money for maintenance.

#### **12 To discuss how the BWG will be involved in the Welcome Day at Cremer's Meadow, 20<sup>th</sup> June**

It was AGREED that the BWG will be involved with the event and will be in the barn. Tables will be brought from the allotments and the tabletop display boards in the office will be utilized.

#### **13 Draft Management Plans, Environment Committee to overview all**

It was suggested that all 5-year management plans be overviewed by the Environment Committee by Tim Strudwick. These will be looked at in the meeting in August as Tim was on holiday.

#### **14 Items for Social Media**

Photographs of the Biodiversity improvement area at the Cemetery, provided by Chris Muskett.

#### **15 Items for next Agenda**

Update on Church Fen  
Proposed pond at Countryside Park  
Update on Brundall Village Park  
Feedback from Welcome Day at Cremer's Meadow  
Feedback from the Volunteer event  
Draft Management Plans overview

##### **Suggestion by Cllr J Warns**

Citizen science, water sampling. The Yare.

Chris said this is absolutely do able with volunteers and at a relatively small cost. Chris will prepare a report. Cllr J Warns would like this added to the Full Council June Agenda.

Test for pathogens, ecoli. People live on boats and young people jump in.

Water quality changes all the time due to tides.

Test at Postwick, Church Fen and down by the railway station.

#### **16 Dates for next meetings**

August 20<sup>th</sup> 2026

November 19<sup>th</sup> 2026

Meeting Closed: 7.50pm

SIGNED