

Natural Basingstoke.

Minutes of Committee Meeting. Tuesday 4th November 2014.

Location: Council Offices. Time: 7.00 – 9.00 pm.

1. Attendees & Apologies

Apologies were received from Ken McKenzie (KM), David Flint (DF), David Glover (DG),

Attendees were, Marion Wolstencroft (MW), Steve Goodwin (SG), (DG), Paul Beevers (PB), Jeffrey Northam (JN), and Sarah Moore (SM).

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes from September had been circulated and were taken as correct.

Outstanding items arising from that meeting are as follows:

| Item | Action | Action by | Action |
|-------|---|-----------|-----------|
| 2.2.7 | Sarah Moore to pick up Speckled Wood Rd residents as potential Group when other priorities addressed. | SM | Pending |
| 3.2.3 | Next coordinating meeting with Bio-Diversity team to be scheduled for end Nov/early Dec | MW | Pending |
| 3.6 | Working Group on website & social media to be set up | SG | Pending |
| 8.3.4 | KM to contact colleague on HCC Forum for more details | KM | Pending |
| 8.4 | Proposed means of better coordination of Environmental Care team activities on conserved green spaces to be circulated to all members and discussed before Spring 2015. | SM | See below |

3. Minutes and Actions from Meeting

3.1 Refer 8.4 above.

Proposed that groups develop a common approach to instructing Operations on management requirements. Workshop to be organised. **ACTION SM**

3.2 Gmail for Groups

Individual groups to be asked to create gmail accounts for easier communication. **ACTION MW**

3.3 B&DBC Responsibility for Street Furniture, Signs, Repair, Replacement

The Operations re-organisation does not indicate with whom responsibility lies for resolving these types of issue. **ACTION SM**

3.4 New Operations Reporting Structure

Organisation structure map showing reporting lines to be distributed to all groups. This must show to whom David Walker reports. **ACTION SM**

3.5 Species Recording by Groups

Groups to be asked what species data on flora and fauna they are actively collecting and how frequently. Also what tools they are using and to whom they send each type of species records e.g. whether directly to species recording groups or to HBIC etc. Also what tools they are using.

ACTION SM

3.6 Training Courses & Talks

A discussion about which training courses and talks to select and how many resulted in the following being chosen for 2015 subject to their being leaders, training programmes and numbers. It was also agreed that Course Leaders should be paid travelling expenses. The amount decided following enquiries by SM about rates paid by the Council

Enquire about travel rates paid by the Council

ACTION SM

The following training and topics for talks were favoured. The task now is for a member of the Committee to work with SM to approach likely leaders of the training courses or talks to agree a brief of what will be covered during an event, when they can deliver it and where and then promote the events to all groups to secure attendance.

Training

Grass Identification

Flora Identification and Surveying

Invertebrates (a combination of talk and field identification)

Birds (a combination of talk and field walk)

Talks/Workshops

Work Party Management and Risk Assessment

The role of Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) and Data

Recording

ACTION DF/SM

3.7 LNR Selection & Accreditation Policy

A policy for the above is being developed by B&DBC but we would like to know the planned delivery date.

ACTION SM

3.8 Improving Posting To NB Facebook & Website

Discussion about expanding postings and numbers of people going to the NB Facebook page. It was proposed that HIWWT be approached to see if they could might automatically share postings on their Facebook page to Natural Basingstoke?

ACTION MW

3.9 M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

Discussions with DEFRA and Natural England (NE) about PES (Payments for Eco-Services) demonstrated that the subject was in its infancy but also led to information about a strategic planning methodology developed by NE being used by some LEP's. Sustainable Basingstoke has asked Maria Miller MP to approach the Chair of the M3 LEP to see if a meeting could be arranged to discuss a joint approach to planning for a greener economy and environment. PB to report back.**ACTION PB**

3.10 NB Budget Approved For Submission To Council

The committee approved the budget with a minor change to expenses and this will be submitted to B&DBC.

ACTION MW

3.11 CIL & S106 Policy Consultation

The council's proposed implementation of CIL is out for consultation on 7th Nov. The documentation indicates that no provision for continued green space maintenance is included – only capital works. It was agreed that a comment would be submitted, highlighting this and suggesting suitable amendment to policy documents before mid-December.

ACTION PB & MW

3.12 Grant Funding for Voluntary Conservation activities

While Commissioning Dept in Council are developing a grant funding process which manages large funding awards and multi year awards, this does not apply to conservation activities, as yet. For 2015-16 Community Dept. grants will apply under existing Neighbourhood and Green space grant system.

3.13 Invertebrates Conference - Information For Groups

SG and DG attended the above conference to learn more about habitat management and SG will shortly produce a brief on what was learned. The brief will be emailed to all groups and made available on the NB website. **ACTION SG**

3.14 Volunteers for Arable Wildflower Seed Collection in 2015

PB reported that some 6 people had come forward so far. MW asked to be included as well. Any other people interested should contact PB.

3.15 NORTH WESSEX AONB AGM MEETING – FOCUS ON WATER DIRECTIVE

PB attended. Following several presentations some of the speakers expressed a growing concern about Metaldehyde in water courses arising from farmers killing slug attacks on Oil Seed Rape. PB also asked questions about experience among attendees about Payments for Eco-Services (PES). As yet while only one organisation (SWFWAG) appeared to have tried to develop a proposal this form of payment still seems very much in its infancy.

3.16 Agenda Preparation for January 12th Quarterly Meeting

Update on training course programme for 2015

Discussion of Events calendar for 2015 - what members are planning, what NB can support - Bio-blitz, Green Week etc. **Action KM**

4. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Monday February 9th at 7pm** at the Council Offices.

Minutes produced by Hatch Warren Nature Group

P Beavers