

# Normandy Parish Council

Serving Our Community through working in Partnership

Minutes of a meeting of **NORMANDY PARISH COUNCIL CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE** held at the **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION HALL, GUILDFORD ROAD** on **THURSDAY 31 AUGUST 2023** at **7.30 pm**.

**Committee Members present**

Cllrs Philippa Mitchell, Simon Schofield

**Non-committee members present**

Amanda Pick (Parish Clerk), 13 members of the public

**CM-001**

## **COMMITTEE MATTERS**

**RESOLVED:** Residents Neil Aust, Heather Sohl, Linda Pike, Nick Barraclough joined the committee

i. Committee Chair

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Schofield nominated Cllr Mitchell which was seconded by Linda Pike and unanimously agreed by the committee

ii. Committee Vice Chair

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Schofield nominated Nick Barraclough, which was seconded by Neil Aust and unanimously agreed by the committee

iii. The committee considered the Terms of Reference for the committee

**RESOLVED:** the Terms of Reference were discussed and agreed with one amendment

**CM-002**

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Roger Sage

**CM-003**

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**CM-004**

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Everyone introduced themselves and highlighted their relevant skills and knowledge on conservation

i. Committee discussed membership and working parties.

**RESOLVED:** Steve Marshal and Bill Stanworth both agreed to lead work parties

ii. The committee discussed current experience levels, including in relation to conservation of Normandy's resources

**RESOLVED:** It was noted that Steve Marshall has a herbicide licence, the council should consider pest management policy, this will be forward to Estates and Facilities for consideration. Bill will look at plants in pond.

**CM-005**

## **NORMANDY COMMON**

i. The committee looked to identify goals for improving biodiversity and habitats on Normandy Common

**RESOLVED:** In advance of the meeting Cllr Mitchell circulated a supporting document which the committee talked through and agreed the initial plan, they would like to recommend to council its' adoption.

- It was noted that Merrist Wood may assist with some practical matters.
- Neil Aust will assist with ditch clearing with his digger where appropriate.
- The committee would like to see non-native willows in the wet area by the tennis courts removed.
- The committee would like to council to consider development of a policy of no non-native planting on Normandy Common.
- Wayleaves under electric pylons – noted as good for wildlife as periodically cut back. Does not seem to have a particular number of years between cuttings.
- It was noted the council are currently developing the wildfire action plan
- Emergency plan (Normandy Common- evacuate plan wildfires) – is being updated and will include issues around MFF and Normandy Common, eg evacuation in the case of wild fires

- ii. to develop an Annual Work Programme for all areas of Normandy Common, including the pond, orchard, woodland, grassland and streams  
**RESOLVED:** working parties will have a pre site meeting to determine jobs lists, this was agreed to be Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 5.30pm to meet at the pond.
  - Pond working group agreed for 23 September starting at 9am; Roger Sage to lead
  - Ditch management working party agreed for 14 October starting at 1pm; Philippa Mitchell to lead.
  - Non-native removal working group agreed for 18 November starting at 1pm; Steve Marshall to lead.
  - Scrub management (strimming and glade creation) on Normandy Common agreed for 13 January starting at 9am; Bill Stanworth to lead
- iii. to prioritise actions and include ideal season for work and create diary of working parties  
**RESOLVED:** Neil Aust will cut back the hedge on Normandy Common Lane that is overhanging the road. Richard Cunningham will trim back nettles on the Glaziers Lane by the bridge crossing.
- iv. The committee discussed fishing on the pond  
**RESOLVED:** the group would like to recommend to Estate and Facilities Committee that the pond becomes a conservation pond
- v. A brief discussion in relation to funds are required and where this might come from  
**RESOLVED:** It was noted that projects that needs funds could be considered for next year's budget, for grant funding, and sponsorship from private companies.

**CM-006 MANOR FRUIT FARM**

It was noted that areas of work to be covered will be at the next meeting.

**CM-007 ALLOTMENTS**

Working party

**RESOLVED:** To note the date of the autumn working party Sunday 22 October 2023

**CM-008 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND/OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

To receive any urgent information items and agree any items for inclusion on future Conservation committee agendas.

**RESOLVED:** Surveys to be discussed at next meeting.

Suggested that working on the seasonal ponds at MFF as well as willow removal from swales are two initial areas of work for MFF.

Date of next meeting Thursday 25 January 7pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:56hrs