

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 **7pm**.

Committee Members present

Cllrs Philippa Mitchell, Simon Schofield, Linda Pike, Nick Baraclough

Non-committee members present

Briony Howarth (Assistant Parish Clerk), 2 members of the public

CM-009

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Heather Sole, Sarah Ivory-Donnelly

CM-010

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CM-011

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record.

CM-012

WORK PARTIES

- i. Prioritise Actions for Work Parties at Normandy Common and MFF
- ii. Create diary of work parties and leader for each party for February to August/September.

RESOLVED

- 10TH FEBRUARY – 9.30AM – Pond work. Focus on rush/tree clearance from north edge, ditch clearing around pond, leaf-litter clearance. NB: need to be aware of toads/frogs spawning.
- 24TH FEBRUARY – TIME TBC – finish the rhododendron clearance at previous site and start on nearby sites. NB: bird nesting. – Bill Stanworth to lead and will check for nesting birds
- April – MFF car park shrubs beds. Chair to ask Caroline and Tracy if they can support or lead this. Suggest using low growing plants like clover on road edge rather than grass so no mowing and better habitat (DATE TBC)
- May - Invasive species removal – Bill Stanworth to lead (DATE TBC)
- June - Pruning the paths, trim brambles and bracken. Managing paths around the Common – walking all paths and trimming back vegetation if is overgrowing the paths – Richard PIKE to confirm whether his small tractor is suitable for cutting either side of the horse ride. If so, will contact Clerk with proposed dates and activity. (DATE TBC). LEAD required
- July an August – wildlife surveys (DATES TBC)
- September - clearing of cut hay from areas of MFF/NC not baled (DATES TBC)

CM-013

SURVEYS

- I. To identify what biodiversity surveys to carry out and where
- II. Create a diary of surveys and identify suitable leaders.

RESOLVED

- Butterfly hunt/survey – July/August (DATE TBC) Will use Big Butterfly Count app/ID sheets and methods as a Citizen Science Project
- Cllr Mitchell to check dates for further wildlife surveys and look to do a bioblitz in 2025 when there has been further research .
- LEADS or people interested in doing surveys very welcome.
- Friends of Normandy Wildlife (FoNW) usually do moth counts at in July. They will organise and invite Conservation Volunteers. (DATE TBC)
- Bill Stanworth will investigate materials (eg corrugated metal sheet or felt sheeting) to create warm spots for reptiles to hide under and identify suitable places to put these.

CM014

UPDATES

- i. update on tree planting and whether there is a need for further tree planting

RESOLVED

- the area around the trees needs to be kept clear of brambles and other plants
- The committee agreed there is no further need for tree planting
- ii. update on potential litter picking event

RESOLVED

- noted that volunteers are considering organising a litter pick, later in the year (DATE TBC)
- iii. update on working with Surrey Choices

RESOLVED

- Cutting back of vegetation near quince cottage. Piles of removed vegetation to be put on woodland edge for wildlife to use.
- Cutting swales where willows grow on MFF and around young trees on MFF. Removed vegetation to go on bonfire site
- Further rhododendron and bamboo clearing

CM-015

OTHER

- i. to agree a draft pesticides policy to submit to Estates Committee
 - we need to define what we would be using (herbicides/pesticides/biocides) - make sure what is covered in terms of treating pipes and woodwork
 - how do we enforce it – check lease contract
 - Liaise with cricket club and Therapy Garden on their lease
- ii. to develop a plan for managing fishing at the pond

RESOLVED

- Signs will be erected around pond and will be monitored. Further action considered if required in future
- iii. to provide a response to Surrey County Council Rights of Way Consultation for the Council to return to SCC & promoting the individual response link.

RESOLVED

- A response can be put together by individuals
- Option to take over managing rights of way discussed, it may result in a quicker response but could add to PC costs. Suggest to ask Clerk to confirm if other Parish Councils have taken over the rights of way management and if so, how has it worked
- Maintaining current networks as is protecting and improving Rights of Way in new developments are vital
- Suggestion for improvement to rights of way would be to convert the footpath between Glaziers and Westwood Lane to a bridleway so is accessible to bikes and horses and creates a safe off-road route between the two sides of the village.
- iv. to note the Council has invited the Conservation Sub Committee invited to present 10 minute hot spot at the Parish Assembly.

RESOLVED

- Nick Baraclough agreed to present but would like the information prepared for him.
- v. to plan Promotion, Fundraising and Communication
 - To ask individuals for support in creating small information boards about conservation work parties and why the work is being done.

CM-016

FUNDING

To consider any funding opportunities open to the Council

RESOLVED

- Funding opportunities will be monitored
- Work with FoNW to have a stall at the Christmas Fair and sell bird boxes for visitors to put together at the fair or after the event.

CM-017

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND/OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

To receive any urgent information items and agree any items for inclusion on future estates and facilities and/or committee agendas.

Date of next meeting in early July.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:49hrs

DRAFT