

Hutton Cranswick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Centenary Wood Management Committee held in the Hall at Hutton Cranswick School, on Monday, 6th February, 2017 at 8.00 pm.

Present: Councillors: Mrs Johnson, Richardson, Scullion, Mrs Taylor.

Parishioners present: Eight

The clerk recorded the minutes.

17/CW 001 Appointment of Chairman: Cllr Scullion was elected as Chairman

17/CW 002 Apologies: Cllr Poolford

17/CW 003 Appointment of Vice Chairman: a Vice Chairman was not appointed at this stage.

17/CW 004 Declaration of interests: None

17/CW 005 Public participation: a number of parishioners expressed concern that the Wood was poorly managed and that it appeared there was no Plan in place to improve this lack of management. The Group had met a representative from The Conservation Volunteers (TVC) at the Wood. A brief report from the TVC was noted. The Group had a strong objection to the use of weed killer as a control measure and considered the more traditional non-chemical approach more appropriate. The use of chemicals killed plants other than weeds and had a potential to pose a threat to wildlife and to pets. Members noted the concerns and confirmed that as part of its remit, the Committee was to make recommendations to the Parish Council on managing the Wood. Any recommendations had to be balanced with the best interest of the Community as a whole in mind, taking account of views from all groups with an interest in the Wood.

17/CW 006 Terms of Reference: the Parish Council established the Committee on 26th October, 2016 (minute 16/272 refers). Membership comprised Cllrs Mrs Johnson, Poolford, Richardson, Scullion and Mrs Taylor. The Parish Council approved the following Terms of Reference (minute 17/015 refers):

1. The Committee is Advisory with the Full Council making final decisions.
2. The Committee shall meet four times a year as a minimum.
3. The quorum is 50% of the Membership.
4. To recommend the strategy to manage the Wood in the best interests of the whole Community.
5. To oversee all actions taken at the Wood
6. To identify organisations the Council could work with in partnership in managing the Wood.
7. To recommend financial investment requirements for the Wood.
8. To review the Terms of Reference of the Committee at the first meeting of the Committee after the Annual General Meeting of Council and make appropriate recommendations to Council.

17/CW 007 Strategy aims and objectives: the aims and objectives were to protect and safeguard the Wood, whilst supporting a thriving wildlife, for the enjoyment of local residents and visitors with a strong focus on being a place where children can appreciate and learn about conservation, nature and wildlife.

17/CW 008 Current situation and next steps: there was some maintenance work planned for the middle of the month, but Members present were not fully aware of the details. It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that (i) the planned works be put on hold and (ii) that an arborist be commissioned to carry out a tree survey and produce a report recording the type and health of the trees in the Wood, suggestions of any maintenance work that needs to be carried out and what measures need to be put in place to ensure the proper future management of the Wood in order to create more of an area akin to a small English woodland.

17/CW 009 Next Meeting: - to be confirmed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed.....Date.....