

Natural Kirklees
Quarterly Meeting Thursday 28th September 2017
At Beaumont Park Visitor Centre

Attendees	Organisation
Mary Kenworthy	Treasurer Natural Kirklees
Tim Duke	Vice Chair Natural Kirklees
Christine Senior	WAW/Friends of Meltham Pleasure Ground
Peter Turner	Chair Natural Kirklees
Michael Brook	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Upper Park Wood
Joan Vevers	Secretary Natural Kirklees
Mike Denton	Huddersfield Birdwatchers
Steve Kelly	Learn 2 Fish
Susan Doran	Kirklees Countryside Volunteers
Pat Sheard	Friends of Greenhead Park
Helen Claydon	Friend of Greenhead Park
Andy McDonald	Friends of Storthes Hall Woods & BEG
Bruce Bird	The Dewsbury Partnership
Bev Corrigan	Kirklees Bridleway Group & The British Horse Society Kirklees
Jill Lucas	Botany Group
Win Harrison	Holmepride
Karen Harrison	Holmepride
Tim Scott	Burton Environment Group
Anne Martin	Kirklees Badger Protection Group
Phil Slater	Don Catchment
D. Wilde	Denby Dale Parish Council
Keith Saunders	Friends of Slaithwaite Spa
Ruth Thomas	Visitor
Sheila Dyson	Visitor
Jason Kerry	S2R Friends of Norman Park
Ed Day	Friends of Beaumont Park
Apologies	
Sal Kerry	Friends of Norman Park
Andrew O'Connor	Friends of Dean Wood
Andrew Walker	Friends of Slaithwaite Spa
Gill Young	Friends of Crow Nest Park
Julian Holroyd	Huddersfield Rotary
Lorraine Fletcher	Friends of Churchfield
Peter Taylor	Friends of Storthes Hall Wood

Item	Action
Introductions Peter opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. Around the room everyone introduced themselves.	
Matters Arising No matter arising	

<p>Treasurer's Report Mary distributed copies of the accounts and explained the figures shown.</p>	
<p>Progress on Working with Kirklees Council Volunteer Coordinators Peter said the VC's were working work and asked what groups thought. Andy McDonald spoke of the difficulty they had had with trying to improve the footpaths. Tim said he would get someone to talk to Andy (David Clarkin) as the group may get into trouble with the owners if they try to maintain the footpaths. Kirkburton Parish Council has provided funding. There was discussion around PROW and Phil said that staff has been reduced. The VC's are coming under greater pressure due to lack of finance and pressure of extra work. There followed discussion around VC's and their work, Local Councillors could possibly help; Joanne Bartholomew was mentioned as well as Community Services, Edward Sladdin Community Payback. Peter said that we do not sell ourselves very well and he will try to contact everyone to put a value on what they do and how they spend their time so that a figure can be calculated to show the value of volunteer labour.</p>	<p>TD/AMcD</p>
<p>Insurance and Tool Share Schemes Tim spoke about the renewal of the insurance scheme, saying that there are a total of 38 groups in the scheme but there should be more. Some groups have tools and equipment cover as well as other additional cover. We will not be giving any money back and if groups do not spend the money then the scheme could continue after the 3 years funding runs out. There was a long discussion around what extra cover could be negotiated. If a risk assessment is necessary they are available on the web site. The Brokers will look at the assessment and consider each individual application. It is free and money which would have been spent on insurance could be spent on other things. Groups can join the scheme at any time. Some insurers may make a charge to cancel a policy mid-term. There is nothing against running 2 policies at the same time. Send Tim an email showing when your policy expires and we will we will act as Brokers and remind you when your policy is about to expire and we will help you fill our form in. We will do the leg work for you and you will save money. The annual renewal in September is automatic. If you want to leave the scheme you need to tell us as soon as possible so that we can claim our money back. The Brokers will send out the renewal documents by the end of October. The more information we give the Broker the better. Give as much details as possible and if there are questions you will be contacted. If you are having an event which you do not think is covered send in a risk assessment. The insurance scheme is based on the Keep Britain Tidy policy which should be adequate.</p>	
<p>Progress on the Strategic Action Plan and HLF Grant</p>	

<p>We are in the process of completing an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable us to deal with the SAP which was completed 18 months ago. HLF are happy to put in the application work in partnership with Kirklees Council. It will be for Kirklees to employ 2 people map the area and get all the information gathered over the past 10 years. The application must be in by 23rd November so that we can gather biodiversity information in the area.</p>	
<p>National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces We are members of this organisation. There is no more money but they do appreciate what Friends Groups do for the parks. They are due to report to the Government and something is being done but it is mostly talk.</p>	
<p>Any Unusual Sightings Mike found a harlequin ladybird on the door of the visitor centre and someone said that they had seen a swarm of them. Mike explained that there are no parasites to remove them and there is nothing we can do about them. Eventually a parasite will reduce their numbers. There was a discussion about ladybirds and hibernation. A Cormorant has been seen at Royd Moor Reservoir and they are coming inland more and more. A Garganey duck has been seen. There was discussion about various butterflies which have been seen. The display about the park for the play areas review was pointed out and everyone was asked to comment. The questionnaire is online and on the NK web site.</p>	
<p>Date Time and Venue for the Next Meeting The next meeting will be the AGM at 2pm on Thursday 30th November at Beaumont Park Visitor Centre.</p>	
<p>Any Other Business We are short of naturalists and we need others particularly younger people, to help survey green spaces. There used to be a Huddersfield Naturalist Society and other people knew of one in Milnsbridge and Shepley. There was mention of an ecological survey at Norman Park. S2R runs projects and anyone can join a project which helps with health and wellbeing. They have a Poly Tunnel at Peace Pit Lane open on a Monday from 10am to 2pm growing perennials for groups to use. Various projects are undertaken. If people want to do any mental health training this can be arranged. Win spoke about the work Holmepride has been doing using social media to get the word out. Tim warned people that Kirkburton Parish Council had offered a grant but then insisted that planning permission be obtained. This proved to be difficult and expensive. Even though planning said there was no need for permission the Council wanted proof in writing which was too costly. There will be a meeting of PROW at Dewsbury Town Hall on Monday 2nd October at 7pm. There was also a warning that Kirklees insist that generators used on their land must be diesel. They are considering converting petrol to gas. Bruce would like photographs of working groups for the web site.</p>	

Preferably with before and after shots. You can send them to **Mary.**

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