

Natural Kirklees Annual General Meeting
2pm Thursday 30th November 2017 held at
Beaumont Park Visitor Centre

Attendees	Organisation
Peter Turner	Chair Natural Kirklees
Mary Kenworthy	Treasurer Natural Kirklees
Tim Duke	Deputy Chair Natural Kirklees
Joan Vevers	Secretary Natural Kirklees
Christine Senior	Friends of Meltham Pleasure Grounds
Stephen Knight	
Pat Sheard	Friends of Greenhead Park
Lyze Dudley	River Holme Connections
D Wilde	Denby Dale Parish Council
Phil Slater	Don Catchment Rivers Trust
Win Harrison	Holmepride-Community in Action
John Griffiths	Friends of Dean Wood
Steve Kelly	L2F
Ed Day	Natural Kirklees
Lorraine Fletcher	Friends of Churchfield
Susan Doran	Kirklees Countryside Volunteers
Andy Goff	Kirklees Council
Lorna Brooks	Birkby Community Wildlife Garden
Ken Gledhill	Birkby Community Wildlife Garden
Bruce Bird	The Dewsbury Partnership
Steve Hemming	Honley Village Community Trust
Peter Taylor	Friends of Storthes Hall Woods
Tim Scott	Burton Environment Group
Keith Saunders	Friends of Slaithwaite Spa
Duggs Carre & Gemma Shearing	Comoodle Kirklees Council
Michael Brook	YWT/Huddersfield Birdwatchers
Mike Denton	Huddersfield Birdwatchers
Jill Lucas	Botanist & Naturalist
Robert Barraclough	Scissett Village Association

Apologies	Organisation
	Ravensthorpe Residents Action Group
Gill Young	Friends of Crow Nest Park
Jane Griffiths & Helen Clayton	Friends of Greenhead Park
Andrew Walker	Friends of Slaithwaite Spa
Deb Corrigan	Kirklees Bridleways
Jason Kerry	S2R

ITEM	ACTION
Introductions Everyone introduced themselves and their organisation	
Minutes from AGM on 1st December 2016	

With the alteration that Russian Ducks were not coming in (an indication of climate warming), the notes were agreed as correct.	
Matter Arising No matters arising other than on the Agenda	
<p>Trustees Annual Report</p> <p>Kirklees Wildlife & Landscape Partnership has changed to Natural Kirklees. Tim Duke is running the insurance scheme and the tool share scheme is running from 2 bases. We also hold monthly meetings with the Council and the VC's. Tim also organises "Friends Of" group meetings which are usually well attended. Facebook and Twitter accounts are running with Mary's help and the website is being improved with the help of Bruce Bird. Natural Kirklees became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 15th August 2017. Under the constitution of the CIO all Trustees must retire from office at the first AGM and new Trustees must be appointed.</p>	
<p>Treasurers Report</p> <p>Copies of the accounts from 1st October to 14th August were circulated. Funds are restricted to work on the website, tool share, insurance scheme and publicity. Further funds have been received and will be spent on these activities. The next accounts will run from 15th August 2017 to 30 September 2018. Mary thanked Bruce for his help with the website. Money for the insurance and tool share is only for 3 years but we are trying to save enough to insure all the groups for a 4th year. This should give time to find more funding or the groups can obtain other insurance. September was renewal time and we have not had any claims.</p>	
<p>Volunteer Co-ordinators</p> <p>The Trustees meet with the VC's and Rob Dalby once a month. The VC's are kept busy and their workload is increasing. There are 4 different districts in Kirklees and various projects are ongoing. We need to make everyone aware of the biodiversity of their area and advise what work is suitable. Action Plans need to be on paper so that we can prove to the Charity Commission that we are doing what we say we are doing. We need to be looking forward with everyone working to the same theme. We have about 12 Action Plans to date. The VC's will work with groups to produce their own Plan. Bigger groups need a detailed Action Plan but smaller areas will not need anything so detailed. There was discussion about the Community Green Flag Awards. Patrick has produced a template for the Community Award. A Plan should include what you are going to do and why you are doing it together with what you want to achieve. As well as biodiversity the point was made about advice and education of the public. We are focusing on biodiversity and raising awareness with the public. Some groups do not know their VC. Some groups have had difficulty with Parish Councils wanting proof from Planning that no planning permission is required.</p>	
<p>Insurance and Tool Share Schemes</p> <p>There are 43 groups in the insurance scheme. Some have extra tools and equipment cover and some have chainsaw cover. Tim will continue to contact other groups who had expressed interest but not</p>	

<p>followed up. Tim asked all the groups represented to apply if they had not already done so. He also asked members of Natural Kirklees to sign up to the charity of the same name if they have not already done so. There are 7 groups using the Wilton Park tool store and about the same at Beaumont Park. Comoodle is trying to promote the Tool Share. We need more groups to use it especially smaller groups and Tenant & Residents Associations. There is still a lot of work to do. Tim will meet with Comoodle. There is a list of tools available on the website. Denby Dale Men's' Shed thanked NK for providing insurance (Andy Ryland). They are working with the Community. Duggs is clearing out closed services and said there are several items in these buildings which might be suitable for the tool stores. There are also pens, paper and arts and craft materials.</p>	<p>TD</p>
<p>Strategic Action Plan This was drawn up 2 years ago and we are trying to get funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to employ 2 ecologists to carry out research on sites. Kirklees Council will now be the lead partner with Natural Kirklees as secondary. The bid has gone in and we will hear next March. Andy Goff has done a really good job with the funding application to Heritage Lottery. Tim Scott mentioned the disc containing ecological information on several sites which could provide a useful baseline. Mike Denton has invertebrate records for Kirklees. A point on the SAP was future funding and sustainability and income may possibly be available from timber management and sale in the future. Groups do not generate funding but they can apply for grants.</p>	
<p>Appointment of Trustees We appointed Trustees and became a CIO in August. Natural Kirklees is now managed by Trustees. There is no Chairperson as such but trustees can appoint a Chair for each meeting as necessary. Peter Turner, Tim Duke, Mary Kenworthy, Joan Vevers, Ed Day and Robert Barraclough are Trustees. Bruce Bird proposed re-election of all 6 seconded by Susan Doran and the motion was carried.</p>	
<p>Any Unusual Sitings Caspian Gulls and Kingfishers have been seen at Meltham Pleasure Garden. Odd looking Crows in St George's Square, not sure why these crows exist. Grey Wagtails have been seen in Beaumont Park. Parakeets have been seen in Rectory Park. (they could become a real nuisance). Golden Pheasants which are an unusual colour. Snowdrops already showing. Some varieties are bred to be early. Friends of Churchfield has 2 Rowan trees both planted at the same time but one is showing autumn leaves and the other green leaves. The climate is changing rapidly.</p>	
<p>Date time and venue of next meeting Will be Thursday 22nd March 2018 2pm at Beaumont Park Visitor Centre</p>	
<p>Any Other Business The Community Trees Fund opens in early December. Someone said that National Tree Week was this week. Peter will obtain details.</p>	

<p>SUEZ Communities Trust - Landfill Communities Fund Peter will put information on the website.</p> <p>Michael, Mike, Jill. Peter and Mary went to Wilton Park in September to meet their VC and discuss improvement of the woodland in the park. Ideas were discussed and Michael produced a report which has been very useful to the FO Group. It is not ancient woodland but it is a wonderful woodland which can be improved one small area after another.</p>	<p>PT</p>
<p>Natural Kirklees would like to log volunteer hours. Mary will send information so that we can put a value on the volunteer work carried out on Kirklees land.</p> <p>There was a comment about LED lighting not attracting insects and bats disappearing. It was felt that the bats will just go elsewhere.</p> <p>There was discussion about habitat for Willow Tits in the Dearne Valley. Standing dead timber is needed and woodland management to achieve continuity.</p> <p>The Council announced a sustainable fund replacing income from social services money mostly for young and older peoples groups. There is a new Team Communities Plan in response to the Council supported projects to keep people active and help prevent them descending into social care. They may have people to place as volunteers.</p> <p>Comoodle is doing well and saving money for local projects. The website has changed. They are advertising skills and ask for donations. They are inviting people on the afternoons of 6th and 13th December to tepees in St George's Square.</p> <p>A question was asked about Community Consultation by a private company who work on a commission system but this is technically fraud and should be avoided.</p> <p>Jill asked about the source of trees used by the Tree Council. It is important to know to avoid importing problems. Community Action Programme more information will be available on 4th December.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Examiner be invited to attend in the future.</p> <p>Peter closed the meeting and thanked Jill for bringing the mincepies.</p>	<p>MK</p>