

**Natural Kirklees**  
**Quarterly Meeting Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 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
Joan Vevers	Secretary Natural Kirklees
Dave Beeston	Friends of T P Woods
Mike Denton	Huddersfield Birdwatchers
Steve Kelly	Learn 2 Fish
Malvern Goodall	Kirklees Badger Protection
Susan Doran	Kirklees Countryside Volunteers
Pat Sheard	Friends of Greenhead Park
Peter Taylor	Friends of Storthes Hall Woods & BEG
Bruce Bird	The Dewsbury Partnership
Bev Corrigan	Kirklees Bridleway Group & The British Horse Society Kirklees
Andy Goff	Kirklees Volunteer Coordinator
Ruth Dodds	Kirklees Volunteer Coordinator
Jill Lucas	Botany Group
John Avison	Friends of Magwood
Lorraine Fletcher	Secretary Friends of Churchfield
Tim Scott	Burton Environment Group
Kim Warren	River Holme Connections
Apologies	
Jonathan Hart-Woods	Canal & Rivers Trust
John Preston	Trust for Conservation Volunteers
Chris Dean	Peak District
Gill Young	Friends of Crow Nest Park
Martin Webster	Friends of West End Park
Rod Payne	Upper Dearne Woodlands
Ali Stopher	Kirklees Environment Partnership
Andy Wickham	Kirklees VC
Julian Holroyd	Rotary
Ed Day	Beaumont Park
Jane Halliday	Groundwork
Phil Slater	Don Catchment Rivers Trust
Peter Taylor	Friends of Storthes Hall Wood

Item	Action
<b>Introductions</b> Peter opened the meeting and explained that the minutes of the AGM on 1 <sup>st</sup> December had been altered as Ali had raised and the	

<p>web site is now in the name of Natural Kirklees. Tim said he welcomed Peter back as Chair after his absence and everyone agreed. Around the room everyone introduced themselves.</p>	
<p><b>Minutes from the AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017</b> were agreed.</p>	
<p><b>Matters Arising</b> No matter arising</p>	
<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b> Mary distributed copies of the accounts and said that the only expense for this period had been setting up the tool share at Wilton Park</p>	
<p><b>Progress on Working with Kirklees Council Volunteer Coordinators</b> Peter said that the VC's were doing an excellent job but some people have had difficulty getting in touch with them. It has been discussed and it was suggested that the best course is to email your VC and ask them to telephone you. Andy G explained that the VC's will set up a surgery in a particular area and groups can drop in. Tim and Andy have visited groups and managed to resolve the problems. We need to be making better progress on biodiversity. Groups should be developing an action plan to show what they are doing to increase biodiversity. Storthes Hall group had been removing rhododendron and leaving wood piles, but Mike pointed out that Rhododendron is not indigenous and does not support native species. There was discussion around how to dispose of it. Groups may not be insured to burn it and Kirklees are not keen on having fires on their land. It would be better to take it to the tip where it may be reused. Peter Taylor said that within 15 minutes of leaving a stick pile someone had set fire to it and someone called fire brigade. The Fire Brigade were fine about being called out but asked that if Groups were planning to have a fire they should first ring the Brigade to let them know where it was.</p>	
<p><b>Insurance and Tool Share Schemes</b> Both locations are open but we are struggling for volunteers to man them. They contain basic hand tools which all groups can come and borrow then return at a later date. Mary and Christine have been opening the one at Beaumont Park but no-one has been. Is Friday the wrong day, would it be better if you could send an email saying what you want? We need to get groups involved. If there is anything you feel we need but don't have, please let us know. We need feedback from groups. Bruce suggested Comoodle are doing this sort of thing. We have had discussion about this and Rob Dalby has suggested putting the information on Comoodle with the proviso that it is only for groups who are registered with Natural Kirklees. Susan asked what tools were available and Tim said he would send her a list. Also that the list would be on the web site.</p>	<p><b>TD/SD</b></p>

<p>We have 28 groups signed up to the insurance scheme but there are still a lot of groups still to sign up. Kim said that the insurance does fall short on fire and her group has paid staff. They also work on land other than Kirklees owned. Tim said he would talk to the Brokers on their behalf. Renewal will be automatic but if Tim has not heard by mid-August he will contact them.</p>	
<p><b>Charity Status</b> The Charity Commission are being difficult but we are working with them. A lot of the difficulty centres around work on private land and the Charity Commission feel it should be open to public access.</p>	
<p><b>Progress on the Strategic Action Plan</b> The plan was completed by Jeff last year. It contains 5 Actions which we need to take. One is complete and a further 4 will be subject to applying for an HLF Grant. The grant application will be led by Natural Kirklees in partnership with Kirklees Council and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.</p>	
<p><b>Any Unusual Sightings</b> Willow Warblers, Red Kite and Black caps have been seen as well as Holly Blue and Brimstone Butterflies. Jill said that there have been very few Damselflies and Dragonflies sited and asked anyone you have seen to let her know so that she can update the records.</p> <p>The Natural History of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Huddersfield written by Mike Denton has sold well and there are a few left. These are selling for £25 and cost £5 to post copies out but you can collect a copy from Mike's at 77 Hawthorne Terrace.</p>	
<p><b>Date Time and Venue for the Next Meeting</b> The next meeting will be at 2pm on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at Beaumont Park Visitor Centre. The AGM will follow on 30<sup>th</sup> November.</p>	
<p><b>Any Other Business</b> Jane Halladay from Groundworks is encouraging groups to apply for Tesco Bags of Help Funding. The following areas are undersubscribed: Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, Liversedge, Gomersal, Scholes, Birkenshaw, Birstall, Norristhorpe, Rastrick, Bradley, Colnebridge, Deighton, Kirkheaton, Tandem, Almondbury, Holmfirth, Shepley, Denby Dale and Skelmanthorpe. You can either search Tesco Bags of Help or contact <a href="mailto:jane.halladay@groundwork.org.uk">jane.halladay@groundwork.org.uk</a></p> <p>Ruth said that plant recognition workshops were being arranged which could be organised on a specific site to establish a baseline. Training Courses which have been offered were not taken up and had to be cancelled. It could be that we need to run the courses at another time but we need feedback from groups. Andy will send information on Training Courses. These courses were on the</p>	

web site and Facebook and it was raised at the last parks group meeting.

Kirkburton has sites which could benefit from bird and bat boxes as well as opening up sites for wild flower meadows. Mike pointed out that it would be better to look at what is already there before creating new.

Bruce said that on looking at the web site it is only later that you get the message that the organisation is member led and not Council. It would be better if this was obvious from the start. We will make the necessary adjustments

Kim mentioned invasive plant species and Balsam Bashing on the River Holme catchment. This will be an ongoing activity and they are calling for volunteers. 26<sup>th</sup> June 4 - 6pm Holme Valley Campsite, 28<sup>th</sup> June 10 - 1 Beaumont Park, 30<sup>th</sup> June 6 - 8pm Mag Brook meet at St Mary's Church, Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 10 - 12 noon Thongsbridge Tennis Club for a few hours balsam bashing. She also said that they had found Giant Hogweed which is a dangerous plant which can give nasty burns and takes 8 years to kill. There are Bushcraft activities at Armitage Bridge Cricket Club. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has work placements for under 25s.

Jill said that there are 70 species which are dependent on ragwort which only grows in poor pasture. It is only dangerous if it gets into hay.

Tim Scott had brought information about Kirkburton quarry and said that this had been produced for them by an environmentally friendly printer Mindlabs in Kirkburton.

Sustrans have organised a bat walk on 4<sup>th</sup> August and information is on the Natural Kirklees web site.

Andy asked for groups to come to Greenhead Park on 13<sup>th</sup> August where there will be a marquee for groups to showcase their organisation. It is a charitable fete to encourage people to join your organisation. Email [Andrew.goff@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.goff@kirklees.gov.uk) for more information.

Steve said the Environment Agency and Angling Trust has online training for invasive species and he will send the link to Peter to be put on the web site.

MK/TD

SK/PT