

Natural Kirklees Quarterly Meeting
2pm Thursday 8th April 2021 held on Zoom

Attendees	Organisation
Tim Duke	Chair Natural Kirklees
Ed Day	Treasurer Natural Kirklees
Joan Vevers	Secretary Natural Kirklees
Phil Slater	Trustee Natural Kirklees
Ken Gledhill	Birkby Community Wildlife Garden
Tim Scott	Burton Environment Group
Christine Sykes	Mirfield in Bloom
Selina Roys-Hird	Our Community Works
Richard Clifton	Burton Environment Group
Gill Young	Friends of Crow Nest Park
Elizabeth Windelinckx	Clems Garden
Tricia Hardy	Friends of Wilton Park, Batley
Helen Simpson	Friends of Cliff Recreation Ground
Andy Scott	Our Community Works
Rob Kersey	Friends of Cliffe House

Apologies	Organisation
Steve Hemmings	Honley Village Community Trust
Jason Kerry	S2R
Rob Dalby	Kirklees Council
Patrick Crowley	Kirklees Parks & Green Spaces
Gill Logan	Kirklees Parks & Green Spaces
Claire Hunter	Earls Heaton Park
Peter Taylor	Storthes Hall Woods
Julia Clark	Friends of Longley Woods
Karen Mayfield	Ravensthorpe Residents
Caroline Goodwill	Spennings Beck & Mann Dam
Andy Goff	Kirklees Parks & Green Spaces
David Rudd	Natural Kirklees

Item	Action
Meeting Protocol Ed opened the meeting with a review of the protocol and everyone introduced themselves. Apologies were read out.	
Minutes of the Meeting 19th November 2020 These were taken as read with no matters arising.	
Welcome Back to Parks and Green Spaces	

<p>We have been able to return to volunteering but Tim reminded everyone to take care and follow all guidelines, particularly make sure that risk assessments are carried out including Covid restrictions. Kirklees Council will be keeping watch to see that we follow the rules, hand sanitising, groups of 6 spaced 2 metres do not share tools etc. Ken asked who should sign the assessments. Tim said whoever carried out the assessment. They could also be countersigned if you wish by a trustee of the group. The assessments are a stipulation of the insurance. There are blank templates on the NK website just click on the Documents Folder and they are all there.</p>	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <p>The main one is the Beaumont Park Gala on 1st August which has been a regular event for sometime. It is the same day as Greenhead Park are holding an event. Natural Kirklees will have a stall and there is an offer to member groups if they wish to have a stall in what would be a Natural Kirklees village they will be welcome. They must not provide refreshments and would have to set the stall up, man and dismantle with their own volunteers. There is a fee of £5 which could be paid by NK for each stall. If anyone is interested you should contact Ed or David Rudd.</p> <p>Keep Britain Tidy are organising a litter pick between 23rd and May and 13th June. Details are on the KBT website.</p> <p>Christine mentioned an activity between 23rd and 25th April and Ed asked her to send information to him.</p> <p>Gill mentioned the possibility of Calaloo Arts having a pop-up theatre In Crow Nest Park on 29th May</p>	<p>CS/ED</p>
<p>Tool Stores</p> <p>We can now re-open the tool stores and there is a new booking system. If you want any tools send an email to info@naturalkirklees.com. we can then arrange a suitable time to collect and return whatever is required. In your email please say which tool store, what you would like and approximately for how long. Tim at Crow Nest and Christine at Beaumont Park will make the necessary arrangements. We also have new litter pickers and bag rings in both stores.</p>	
<p>2020 Grant Status Updates</p> <p>Simon Hirst - River Holme Connections</p> <p>We have completed the “Spa Wood Restoration project”.</p> <p>We carried out a total of four practical tasks which involved litter picking, river clean-up work, control of invasive non-native plants</p>	

(Himalayan balsam and rhododendron), management of bramble on a species rich grassland and small-scale woodland management work (coppicing).

A total of 36 people were involved and a total of 75 volunteer hours were contributed to the project.

There will soon be photographs on the NK website.

Win Harrison - Holmepride

It has been turbulent to say the least and the grant awarded for the Holmfirth J,I&N school allotments is still being held as we are waiting for a new quote to finish off the work needing to be done. Funds from other groups are also being held and we are working together with Kirklees Council who are running Growing Great Places in conjunction with Spacehive, a crowdfunding company. The project will be completed this year and hopefully by late Spring/early June. I can keep you updated on progress and it may transpire, depending on the new contractors quote, that the funds I have already raised will be enough to complete the allotment build much quicker.

Ken Gledhill - Birkby Community Wildlife Garden

We were very pleased to be recipients of one of the NK grant awards and with a small top up from other funding we were able to purchase a smart noticeboard to be installed at the garden, informing people of the work being undertaken there as well as about other local community initiatives. We just managed to install the noticeboard prior to the Christmas Covid lockdown. There have been many visitors to the community garden during the lockdown period and this small enclave within the urban area has served as a quiet place for retreat, contemplation and children's play. Now that we are allowed to restart our monthly work days (next one Saturday 17th April, 10.00 - 2.00 p.m) we would like to extend an invitation to Natural Kirklees representatives, and of course to anyone interested, to visit us at the garden sometime over the coming months.

David Curry - Scissett Community Garden

Before and after photographs of Scissett Community Garden will soon be on the NK Website. The work paid for by the Natural Kirklees was almost completely covered by the grant.

Many thanks to Natural Kirklees. We feel that the grant has allowed us to make excellent progress with tidying up the plot and the trees.

Karen Mayfield - Ravensthorpe Residents Action Group

Unfortunately we have suffered a lot of vandalism which destroyed much of what had been done. We are looking, with help from Pete at Dewsbury Country Park, at getting the community back involved to see if we can rescue it.

Steve Hemmings - Honley Village Community Trust

Our aim is to create a temporary pond/wetland area at the bottom of a slope which often gets waterlogged during wet weather. Towards the end of March we started by using a small digger to dig out a depression approximately 16m by 10m at the bottom of the slope. We then placed a pond liner with underlay in the depression before backfilling the soil. Since then we've hardly had any rain, but what we did have left the area boggy for a few days. We hope the water from rainfall and run-off from the slope will in time produce a wetland and shallow temporary pond which may remain for several months. Our next steps are to introduce water to the area if we don't get some rain soon, probably by pumping from the river or transferring by bucket. Then we will sow some wetland grass/wildflower mix and see what happens! It's likely that we'll add some bog plants and marginals in future, depending on how the feature progresses during the year. We are looking forward to seeing how this different habitat affects the type of wildlife we attract.

Finances

Ed gave an overview of finances.

NK Financial Expenditure Year to Date (since September)

- Basically not a lot of activity
- Insurance - We paid for 2020/21 from last years funds and have reserved sufficient to cover the groups until at least September 2022
- We made the Membership form and other aspects of our website more user friendly, put online the insurance form and paid the hosting fee - a total of £516
- We paid River Holme Connections £900 for Japanese Knotweed Eradications
- We paid Wycas to scrutinise our accounts - £300
- Tim and David bought a heap of litter pickers and hoops for £1320
- We have received £10,000 from Kirklees Council

We are in a strong financial position bearing in mind we have spent hardly anything in the first 6 months of the current year.

<p>Public Rights of Way</p> <p>Ken Gledhill spoke about PROWs and Bridleways as those on the land they maintain have suffered due to increased usage. As Kirklees Officers have been transferred to other duties due to Covid it has been impossible to contact PROW officers. Ken mentioned the Countryside 10 year improvement plan for PROWs and management of the network. Kirklees had a plan in 2010 which is impressive. Ken asked where is the plan and who is in charge of it? Tim said he had been to a few meetings but they were not very interesting. There seems to be only one person left in the PROW Team (Sharon Huddleston). He asked Ken to send his question so that he can look into it.</p>	<p>KG/TD</p>
<p>Kirklees Policy for maintenance of Projects</p> <p>Tim Scott asked about work on a stile which had been carried out and Kirklees Council enforcing their policy making Friends groups liable for the maintenance and insurance ongoing for work that is agreed between the council and the friends groups that the latter undertake. It is felt that this section would never be imposed, if it were it could be the end of volunteering. We need clarification from Kirklees Council. Tim Duke is speaking to VCs and other officers who are back into their normal roles after next Monday.</p>	<p>TD</p>
<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Phil said that Friends of River Dearne now has funding from Yorkshire Water for their enhancement work and are now a constituted group which can be found on Facebook. Ed asked him to apply for membership when they are ready</p> <p>Tim Scott asked if the operation of a Petanque court would be covered by the NK Insurance policy. Tim said that this does not fall within the scope of the policy as it would be classed as a sporting activity and not our routine maintenance activities. would have to be taken up with the insurers as it does not fall within our normal remit.</p> <p>Phil mentioned that we normally had a section Any Unusual Sightings because people in Clayton West are covering their ponds to protect their fish as an Osprey has been seen in the area. This has been confirmed by RSPB.</p> <p>Ill Health - Our 3 Naturalists Michael, Jill and Mike are all OK. Patrick is recovering from an operation. We wish them All the Best.</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>TD</p>

Dates of Next Quarterly Meetings

Tim came up with dates in June and September and December but there were queries about each date and Tim and Ed would discuss this and send out a list of dates. Tim also brought up the question of finding a new Chair when he stands down at the next AGM. **Will everyone give this some thought and come up with some nominations please.**