

Natural Kirklees Quarterly Meeting
2pm Thursday 5th August 2021
At Beaumont Park Visitor Centre

Attendees	Organisation
Tim Duke	Chair Natural Kirklees
Ed Day	Treasurer Natural Kirklees
Joan Vevers	Secretary Natural Kirklees
Phil Slater	Trustee Natural Kirklees
David Rudd	Trustee
Christine Senior	Trustee
Tim Scott	Burton Petanque Environment Group
Peter Taylor	Burton Environment Group
Michael Brook	Yorkshire Wildlife TRsut
Jill Lucas	Botanist
Jean Margetts	MASTT Rotcher Wood Slaithwaite
Celina Paget	MASTT Rotcher Wood Slaithwaite
Stefanie Rofke	MASTT Rotcher Wood Slaithwaite
Gill Young	Friends of Crow Nest Park
Deborah Wyles	Friends of Cliff Rec
Pat Sheard	Friends of Greenhead Park
Helen Mason	Rotcher Wood Slaithwaite
Richard Stow	Rotcher Wood Slaithwaite

Apologies	Organisation
Christine Sykes	Mirfield in Bloom
Lizzie Windelinckx	Clems Garden
David Wilde	Denby Dale Parish Council
Karen Mayfield	Ravensthorpe Residents Ass
Andrew O'Connor	Friends of Dean Wood
Andy Goff	Kirklees Council
Bev Corrigan	Kirklees Bridleways Group
Julie Dempster	Friends of Beaumont Park
Rob Kersey	Friends of Cliffe HOuse
Dave Rigby	Golcar & Slaithwaite Walkers are Welcome

Item	Action
<p>Meeting Protocol</p> <p>Tim opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting since the first lockdown. He ran through the housekeeping details still in place for Covid. Everyone introduced themselves. Tim then told everyone the bad news about Rob Dalby from Kirklees Council saying that it was a shock to hear of his death in a diving accident. Tim has written with condolences from everyone at Natural Kirklees. We will publicise news of his funeral when it is available. Rob was very</p>	

<p>popular and will be sadly missed. There was a suggestion that we should have a bench in Beaumont Park dedicated to his memory, then planting a tree. Someone said that Rob had wanted a tea plantation but that probably wouldn't work in the park. Then Dave suggested a small Camellia plantation. Tim said that if anyone had any other ideas we should discuss it at the next meeting</p>	
<p>Minutes of the Meeting 8th April 2020 These were agreed as a true copy proposed by Phil.</p>	
<p>Matters Arising The Gala on 1st August at Beaumont Park was where NK were to have a village but a mixture of Covid and apathy prevented this. The Badger Group had a pitch and it was very successful. The Keep Britain Tidy litter pick went ahead. Our tool stores are full of equipment and Christine said that 40 pickers and hoops were used and given back. David Rudd got us a bargain price on the pickers and hoops. Tim has spoken to the insurance brokers about offering cover to small groups of residents. They could, but it would cost as much as the cover for a full for a full group, so it is too expensive. The new rangers, who we do not know much about and they seem to be doing a lot of litter picking and having spoken to Gill Logan the VC for Hudds, we are looking into the possibility of tying small groups of pickers in with the rangers to get round the insurance. There was discussion around small or family groups of litter pickers. It was suggested that we could lend pickers and hoops but only on the understanding that they are not insured and they are responsible for their own safety. We will have to check this with Kirklees before proceeding.</p>	
<p>Small Grants Scheme A lot of the work has been carried out and reports from groups have been in the newsletter or on the website.</p>	
<p>Insurance and Tool Stores The insurance scheme renews every September and it will renew this year. Funds are ring fenced for the insurance renewal and enough for a price increase. We still have money ring fenced if we need to increase Public Liability cover. For commercial events where money is to be made the Council ask for 10 million. We have the funds available should there be a need to increase the cover but are checking the latest requirements from Kirklees before we up the limit. There are a number of people who are no longer associated with certain groups and we need to have correct contact details for the insurance. The application form requests 2 names as contact for each group. ED will send out a query send out a request for confirmation of 2 names from every insured group and check each groups still requires cover before 19th September. Tim Scott asked about insurance for equipment for commercial or sports organisation if a member group. Tim D said probably not as it is purely for voluntary groups. If money changes hands then it is probably not covered. It was then asked what if the event was for fund raising? Tim said he would check these queries with the insurance brokers.</p> <p>In the tool store we have litter pickers and lots of other equipment made up of basic hand tools. TD agreed to email Rotcher Wood with an overview of the equipment. TD will send this to ED as well so that he can put the details on the website.</p>	<p>ED</p> <p>TD</p>

	TD/ED
<p>Upcoming Events and Members News</p> <p>Rotcher Wood have had new energy and people are doing a lot more, take a look at the website https://rotcherwoodslaithwaite.org/ . Stefanie Rofke agreed to speak to Ed about Facebook.</p> <p>Burton Environment Group have been working with Andy Wickham to improve biodiversity on Burton Community Field since the spring. It has been introducing more wildflowers and intends to plant hedging and possibly even create scrapes in future as there is potential for a range of habitats. They would like to ask Mike Denton to share his expertise on invertebrates and fungi. They already have a community trail and exercise stations with volunteers doing the work. It has been agreed that Kirklees will not take responsibility for maintenance of the equipment although they will carry out annual checks. Tim had spoken with Moira Scarff and Paul Wayne who had confirmed that it would be Kirklees responsibility for any accidents on their land. TD will arrange a meeting with Will Acornley and Jack Senior to find out Kirklees position and how these things move forward. Our insurance does not cover groups who own equipment used by children. It is the members responsibility to inform the insurance brokers and Natural Kirklees of any changes in what groups are doing. If any play equipment is damaged it will not be replaced but removed and taken to Peace Pit Lane. Kirklees carry out regular inspections of play equipment. They have also taken responsibility for the new playground in Beaumont Park. There was a discussion around the Play Strategy and destination play areas. The new Councillor for Dewsbury said that the Strategy was ratified. It is a 5 year programme and there is a list of sites which we have not had sight of.</p> <p>There was mention of Paul Wayne at Peace Pit Lane and there being a graveyard for park equipment which can be in good condition and groups could have access to it. Deborah said that 240 trees had been planted at Cliff Rec but very few are left. They were whips and some had been pulled up or vandalised. It is maybe better not to advertise what has been done as this draws attention to projects and sometimes encourages vandalism the only advice is to keep going. It was suggested that trying to hide them amongst brambles may work. Someone mentioned Youth Workers and Ward Cllrs and Susan Greenwood of Kirklees Youth Association may be able to help.</p> <p>Peter mentioned that the Forestry Commission had licences to carry out thinning at Storthes Hall Wood. He said that a large part of the wood had not had any maintenance in 30 years and some people are worried. The woods do need thinning and in the long term it will be a good thing. Kirkburton Parish Council has a management plan but he does not have a copy.</p> <p>Gill Young of Crow Nest Park mentioned Edible England events and Holmfirth where</p>	TD

<p>work has been done and S2R and others are doing growing works. There are Heritage Open days 10th to 19th September. School children will be shown how to grow food. If there is anything you want to publicise send it to info@naturalkirklees.org to be put on the website. It is possible to raise funds by serving refreshments and asking for donations.</p> <p>Richard Stow asked for support as Kirklees Highways are doing a consultation on work to widen Halifax Road from Huddersfield to Ainley Top and are planning to fell a large number of mature trees. It is believed that this would only save 1 minute on the driving time.</p>	
<p>Any Unusual Sightings</p> <p>Jill said that an alien grass had been seen growing in the pond area at Greenhead Park.</p> <p>A bearded Vulture has been sighted near Spalding and a Black Browed Albatross at Bempton Cliffs. A young Cuckoo has been seen as well as Buzzards and a Hummingbird Hawk moth.</p>	
<p>Dates of Next Quarterly Meetings</p> <p>Will be the AGM at 2pm on Thursday 7th October at Beaumont Park Visitor Centre. Darren Starkey of Frog Life cancelled for today but will come to the AGM</p>	
<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There has been recent high incidence of mountain bikes which cause a certain amount of damage.</p> <p>If you have anything of interest which could go in the Newsletter please let Ed know. There are still problems with PROW but Christine mentioned Footpath Fettleers, part of the Ramblers Group could help with problems. Ride Kirklees are maintaining bike tracks in parks to make it safer for the public and keep mountain bikers in one place. Oakwell Hall helps educate mountain bikers about how to behave. Patrick Crowley did some work before he was taken ill.</p> <p>Thank you to Ed for the newsletter and keeping things going while Tim has been away.</p> <p>Thanks to Dave for tea and coffee and Christine for the cake.</p>	