

**Natural Kirklees Quarterly Meeting**  
**2pm Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022**  
**At Beaumont Park Visitor Centre**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Ed Day	Chair Natural Kirklees
Joan Vevers	Secretary Natural Kirklees
Phil Slater	Trustee Natural Kirklees
Christine Senior	Trustee Natural Kirklees
Gill Young	FO Crow Nest Park
Lizzie Windelinckx	Clems Garden
Andrew Lindley	FO Spen Beck & Mann Dam
Andrew O'Connor	FO Dean Wood
Bruce Bird	Dewsbury Partnership
Andy Wickham	Kirklees Volunteer Co-ordinator
Andy Goff	Kirklees Volunteer Co-ordinator
Dave Wilde	Denby Dale Parish Council
Julie Dempster	FO Beaumont Park
Caz Goodwill	Red House Gomersal, Spen Beck/Mann Dam
Keith Saunders	Slaithwaite Spa
Gill Logan	Kirklees Volunteer Co-ordinator
Michael Brook	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Ali Stopher	EPIKS
Helen Stevenson	EPIKS
Carol Garforth	FO Red House & Spen Beck/Mann Dam
Peter Taylor	Burton Environment Group
Karen & Winton Harrison	Holmepride Community in Action
Deborah Wyles	Cliffe Rec

<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Jill Lucas	Botanist
Karen Mayfield	Ravensthorpe Residents Assoc
David Rudd	Trustee Natural Kirklees
Julie Hirst	Treasurer Natural Kirklees
Christine Sykes	Mirfield in Bloom
Eric Amende	Spen Valley Civic Society
Tim Duke	Trustee Natural Kirklees
Tim Scott	Burton Petanque
David Rowatt	Shelley Conservation Group
Jane Griffith	FO Greenhead Park
Bev Corrigan	Kirklees Bridleways
Steve Hemming	Honley Village Community Trust
Karen Mayfield	Ravensthorpe Residents Action Group
Ken Gledhill	Birkby Community Wildlife Garden
Dennis Whittle	Kirklees Council

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	

<p>Ed welcomed everyone. Each member around the room introduced themselves</p>	
<p><b>Minutes of the AGM and Matters Arising</b>  Ed ran through points from the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 mentioning items from those notes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling bins in Victoria Park Holmfirth and Greenhead Park was mentioned and Andy G said that this was being dealt with.</li> <li>• Contact for Dennis Whittle and the VCs were published in the Newsletter.</li> <li>• Kirklees Countryside Volunteers have ceased activities and discussions have taken place for NK to purchase their container as the one they have at Beaumont Park leaks badly. Andy G is liaising with Dennis as the existing one is KC's property.</li> <li>• Ruth Dodds confirmed that events held by friends' groups in their own parks are not subject to a charge.</li> <li>• The situation with Patrick Crowley's replacement is still ongoing.</li> <li>• Regarding Facebook training. Bruce stated that there is lots of training available on-line. It was agreed that Julie Dempster would lead an interactive training session on 18<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm. Bruce will also attend to assist, and Phil suggested Kat also be asked if she would help. ED will ask what people want from Facebook in the newsletter and who would want to attend. Attendees should bring either a laptop or an iPad to the session.</li> <li>• The meeting agreed that it was better to retain the 2pm start for the next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">ED  JD/BB</p>
<p><b>Natural Kirklees Financial Update</b>  In Julie's (NK treasurer's) absence Ed provided a financial update - The finances of Natural Kirklees are in a healthy position following a grant back in March of £11,000 from Kirklees Council. This was in fact the second instalment of the 2021 funding, delayed due to Rob Dalby's untimely and tragic death. We are therefore able to report that we can continue insuring members - some disaster notwithstanding - for the £5 million cover when it is renewable this September but also in 2023, giving us nearly 30 months cover.</p> <p>Our funds also allow us to provide and maintain the tool stores for the same period of time and the web site, including its revamp and move of hosting to a more flexible arrangement.</p> <p>More good news is that as we come out of Covid, we are able to provide another small grant scheme and to date have had applications from 6 members.  Two trustees - Phil and David are overseeing these, and we hope to meet in the next 3 weeks to award the grants.</p>	

To make the grants as efficient as possible, it has been noted that tools and plants are a common request. Before finalising the awards, we will be looking to see if bulk buying may reduce costs or improve the quality of the tools and will also liaise with Ruth to identify if there is any merit using the council suppliers.

#### **Update in relation to Kirklees Council**

The unfortunate death of Rob Dalby continues to have repercussions within the council and the working relationship with Natural Kirklees. I spoke to Mark and Ruth in the past month and there remains uncertainty as to who is filling which role in the longer term. As such I agreed with Mark to hold off publishing the now long promised structure of the relevant contacts within Kirklees Council. Mark did inform me that a proposal has been put forward to the powers that be, and we await the outcome.

I would add that this is not affecting other issues and when we met at the turn of the year, we agreed several “projects” that we would progress.

- Firstly, the Publication when appropriate of the P&GS Organisation and members. When we do have something to publish, I will try and include other names that have been brought to our attention and to identify their role when it comes to interactions with member groups.
- Natural Kirklees Funding - we had an agreement that we only seek funds from the council so are wholly dependent on the grants they provide. Due to Covid we obviously reduced our spending but also did not apply for the second stage payment last year following Rob’s death. We have written a proposal and Will Acornley approved the first of 3 payments of £11,000 for the calendar year 2022 back in March. The financial report indicated how we will utilise this sum.
- Revision of the 3-year agreement with Natural Kirklees and Kirklees Council. The initial agreement for 3 years was made in 2016, involving the creation of Natural Kirklees and its objectives. I submitted a revised agreement to Mark on 10<sup>th</sup> April and await initial responses. Basically, this agreement - from our perspective is to provide 3 years of funding to secure the insurance and tool share schemes and provide for the day-to-day administration, web site and social media costs. We are also hopeful of including a small grant scheme either annually or biannually. The proposal we put forward also transfers ownership of the tools loaned to NK back in 2016 so that we do not have to account for those separately, as some are now no longer usable.
- Re-establishment of regular meeting between the volunteer

<p>coordinators and us to identify and clarify areas of mutual interest. The first meeting for 3 years was this morning and proved very worthwhile by all concerned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To utilise the Natural Kirklees web site and social media to publicise the work we are jointly undertaking and provide information the council hold to members. We are currently moving the hosting of our web site and reviewing its content. When this has been completed, we will invite Dennis and his team to progress their ideas.</li> <li>• We are interested in becoming more involved with public rights of way and helping the Kirklees team where this is mutually beneficial. No further progress has been made on this aspect as organisation changes continue.</li> <li>• We are working with Rachel Palmer, who presented at our last meeting on her recycling project and in particular setting up groups to undertake litter picking. Rachel cannot make this meeting but gave an update -</li> </ul> <p>“The champions are concentrating on recycling rather than litter picking at present though some groups have been established. Policies are being drawn up by the council but are slow to produce due to prioritisation. As far as litter picking is concerned, the council are offering bags, but pick-ups are a bit hit and miss dependant on resources but again slow to move forward. Litter picks are being coordinated by the volunteer coordinators.”</p> <p>The champions meet every 8 to 10 weeks and I will be presenting on behalf of NK in July so I will get a better idea then of what lies ahead.</p> <p>Bruce suggested a link with PROW connecting travel cycle and active travel through green spaces.</p>	
<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Some banks have introduced charges for friends’ groups. The Co-op bank has agreed that a letter provided by NK is acceptable and at least 2 groups have now opened accounts with them. ED is happy to provide any full constituted member group with the letter should they wish to move their account to the Co-op. However, Phil is still having difficulty with them, and Ed will liaise. It was reported that Lloyds do a Treasurers account and Barclays also provide a free account.</p> <p>Jill Lucas is no longer a member of NK. Ed has written thanking her for all the work she has done over many years wishing her all the best for the future and hoped that her health might improve.</p>	

Lizzie - Clems Garden 28 Occupation Road Lindley are having a sale of tulips at the gates this Friday between 11 and 12.30.

Holmfirth Arts Festival April to October there are leaflets available for anyone to take.

Christine said that Honley Old Wood and Ramsden Road are still looking for funding.

Deborah said that Cliff Rec is hoping to have a beacon on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 9pm. She also asked about providing disabled access on the Rec, but it deliberately maintained as a wild area and opinions differ as to whether a level path should be provided. Phil suggested that they approach their local Lions Club who have provided funding for all terrain wheelchairs. Keith mentioned Craig Grimes organisation - Experience Community who had laid paths for wheelchair access at Slaithwaite Spa without disturbing the wild areas. There was mention of Cummings Volunteers. Ed said he would let Deborah have Craig's contact. Beaumont Park have used crushed stone for some paths using local stone. Michael pointed out that it is important to use only local stone to protect the wildlife habitat and reduce the carbon footprint.

Gill said there was an open day at Crow Nest Park on 2<sup>nd</sup> May with a Classic Car display. There are Heritage Open days throughout Kirklees from 9<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September. All details can be found at Kirklees Heritage Open Days website.

Michael has brought some woodland plants, herbs and seeds which people are invited to take and plant in their woodlands. Michael said that an herb layer is very important for woodlands.

Caz mentioned someone burning what smells like toxic waste on their land. There is legislation against this, and you should ring the fire brigade who will log the incident. Andy G will ask their Environment Department. There was mention of a riverbank collapsing and they were advised to ring 0800807060 and report this, it will be logged, and someone may come out. It was agreed the more people who report it the better.

At the last meeting Rachel Palmer spoke about Fungal Forays but nothing is happening at the moment.

Julie mentioned that Beaumont Park are holding Platinum Jubilee events in the park and a Nature Trail Book is now available for £7

Andy G said that training would be useful for groups. Kirklees can do many aspects of training which could be organised through NK. If anyone wanted training e.g., on safeguarding to let ED know

ED

AG

Ali asked about training for removing Japanese Knotweed, but it is expensive, the eradication has to be undertaken over several years and the chemicals used are not pleasant. It is now the responsibility of the landowner. River Holme Connections have staff who are trained, and they should be contacted if required.

Helen spoke about a riverside walk, in association with Huddersfield University, starting at the Piazza on 11<sup>th</sup> May with access to the river and canal. There is also an art exhibition 2<sup>nd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May in one of the piazza shops. She will email Ed with the details to post on Facebook.

A walk is also organised with the Ramblers Association from Lockwood Railway Station on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 1.30pm

Dave said that Denby Dale Parish Council have done hedge laying training.

Ed thanked Julie for FoBP allowing us to use the Visitor Centre and Christine for the cakes and the meeting closed.

HS