

**Natural Kirklees Annual General Meeting**  
**2pm Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022**  
**At Beaumont Park Visitor Centre**

Attendees	Organisation
Ed Day	Chair Natural Kirklees
Tim Duke	Trustee Natural Kirklees
Joan Vevers	Secretary Natural Kirklees
Christine Senior	Trustee Natural Kirklees
Phil Slater	Trustee Natural Kirklees
David Rudd	Trustee Natural Kirklees
Stefanie Rofke	Trustee Natural Kirklees
Peter Taylor	Burton Environment Group
Julie Dempster	FO Beaumont Park
Ali Stopher	EPIKS & Birkby Com Wildlife Garden
Deborah Wyles	FO Cliffe Rec
Helen Claydon	FO Greenhead Park
Jim Claydon	FO Gledholt Woods
Dave Wilde	Denby Dale Parish Council
Win Harrison	Holmepride-Community in Action
Michael Brook	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Andy Wickham	Kirklees Countryside Officer
David Hirst	East Bierley Village Preservation Society
Christine Pounder	East Bierley Village Preservation Society
Rod Holroyd	East Bierley Village Preservation Society
Carol Ward	Windy Bank Gardening Club
Sandra Wood	Windy Bank Gardening Club
Tim Scott	Burton Environment Group
Christine Sykes	Mirfield in Bloom
Ruth Edwards	Mirfield in Bloom
Gill Young	FO Crow Nest Park
Jackie Hirst	FO Honley Old Wood
Mark Wallis	FO Honley Old Wood
Andrew O'Connor	FO Dean Wood
Lizzie Winderlincke	Clems Garden
Keith Saunders	FO Slaithwaite Spa

Apologies	Organisation
Gill Logan	Kirklees VC
Julie Hirst	Treasurer Natural Kirklees
Karen Harrison	Holmepride Community In Action
Angela Sugden	Cleckheaton in Bloom
David Rowatt	Shelley Conservation & Env Group
Sandra Massey	FO Lees Holm Park
Bruce Bird	Dewsbury Partnership
Caz Goodwill	FO Spen Beck & Mann Dam
Karen Mayfield	Ravensthorpe Residents Action Group
Bev Corrigan	BHS & Kirklees Bridleways

Item	Action
<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Ed welcomed everyone. Everyone around the room introduced themselves</p>	
<p><b>Minutes of the last AGM and Matters Arising</b> Ed reminded everyone that the Minutes of the 2021 AGM were approved at the January 2022 quarterly meeting. No matters arising unresolved</p>	
<p><b>Trustees Annual Report</b> Ed introduced the trustees report -</p> <p>First of all, as the new chair of Natural Kirklees, I would like to particularly thank Tim for his role of chair up until last January, having provided Natural Kirklees with a huge amount of knowledge on matters that enable us to perform our objectives, an incredible network of contacts within the council and further afield and to continue to mentor and guide me over the recent months.</p> <p>I would also like to thank Joan for her ongoing role as secretary and Julie who picked up the role of treasurer from me last November and has ensured all our money has been properly spent and all bills paid promptly. I also have to thank the other trustees for their support throughout the year. Like our member groups the time given by volunteers is grossly underestimated by too many people. Our annual accounts reflect that in a normal year, the time given by the majority of our members, say 120, at a total average volunteer hours of 18 a week and at a rate of £10, we contribute a value in excess of £1 million per annum to the benefit of the parks, villages and other green spaces and general wellbeing of the residents of Kirklees.</p> <p>Our member database at the end of the year held 133 members of which 92 are now covered by our public liability insurance scheme. While the renewal process this year was not the smoothest, I am on the case to resolve all the issues as soon as possible.</p> <p><b>Achievements and performance</b> With the relaxation of rules relating to the Covid 19 pandemic, our member groups were able to recommence or step up their activities within the Parks, Green Spaces and Villages within Kirklees. Natural Kirklees continue to give support in terms of providing public liability insurance for their activities and cover for their tools when stored in a public place, free to members.</p> <p>We continued to provide loans of tools via our two tool stores at Beaumont and Wilton Parks and increased our stock of litter pickers as schools and other groups were keen to follow on the good work they commenced during lockdown.</p> <p>We obtain our funding via Kirklees Council and have rekindled the</p>	

working relationship with the Parks and Green Spaces team, holding quarterly meetings with the Managers of the team and separately with the Volunteer Coordinators.

This year has also seen the relaunch of our Facebook site and a complete redesign and publication of our web site, retaining the information on our member groups but focusing on volunteer opportunities and adding information to help groups undertake their day-to-day activities. Again, my thanks to Kat and Phil for the work to date on Facebook and particularly to Stefanie who not only had her most challenging project to code the new site but to work with my evolutionary methods of identifying what we needed.

Most importantly we have recommenced our quarterly members meetings which have received increased attendances and a diversification of relevant guest speakers, for instance on Public Rights of Way and Recycling. We continue to provide a frequent, at least monthly, newsletter to our members and wider public subscribers.

Thanks to the funding of Kirklees Council we have also been able to offer grants to 9 of our members who applied to our 2022 small grant scheme, providing plants, tools, benches, soil testing kits, bat surveys, anti-graffiti treatment and trees.

Our relationship with the council, although funded by them, remains on an independent basis and we are at the stage of a final draft of a new 3-year agreement, guaranteeing our future, as best as is possible in current circumstances, until 2025.

We continue to reach out to the various MP's, councillors and senior staff within the council to publicise Natural Kirklees and have meetings re-arranged with Colin Parr, Graham West and Kim Leadbeater in November.

Ed Day  
Chair

### **Treasurers Report 2022 AGM - Financial Statement**

Ed introduced the financial statement in Julie's absence -

Following the tragic death of Rob Dalby a year ago last August, we never sought the second instalment of the annual grant we hope to receive from Kirklees Council. However, in February this year with the support of the trustees, we put a proposal to Kirklees Council (Will Acornley) to provide us funding in principle for this and the following 2 years.

This instigated a process of producing a new 3 year agreement which is approaching a final draft format for approval by both parties. Alongside the agreement, our request for 2 payments of £11,000 prior

to our year end have been paid by the council. Tim also assisted Huddersfield University in some research for which they gave a sum of £100 which he kindly added to our funds.

An opening balance £38,779 when added to the £22,100 grants means we have had £60,879 at our disposal, the aim being to guarantee funding for the charity for a period of 3 years - enabling us to continue the insurance scheme at current levels at least until the renewal date of September 2025.

The trustees allocate the available funds at the beginning of the year into various categories and our expenditure - based on actual payments and receipts was as follows:

**Insurance** - minus £420! This is a reflection of paying £535 for trustee insurance as we continue to provide advice to members and this covers us should we get anything seriously wrong, plus a credit of £955 as we were over charged last year, inadvertently paying double insurance premium tax for the public liability policy. We have naturally not paid the September premium yet but have reserved £11,578 to cover it once the renewal process is complete.

**Tool Store** - we spent a total of £126 on litter pickers, tarmac rakes and a first aid kit. The use of the tool stores has not been as high as pre Covid Levels and the store at Beaumont Park is not in a good condition. The trustees may review how we address this at a future meeting in liaison with the council.

**Small Grant Scheme** - Natural Kirklees awarded 9 groups, awards up to £750 covering a wide range of plants etc. as mentioned in the trustee report, plus funding for 3 sites Japanese Knotweed Eradication to be undertaken by River Holme Connections - a total spend of £4,821.

**Web Site and Social Media** - the redevelopment of our web site proved a lengthier process than expected but resulted in a much improved layout and content - the development and normal web site costs amounted to an expenditure of £6,709

**Administration** - Accounts scrutiny and security software costs amounted to £258 and we have reserved a further £240 to pay Wycas for their work scrutinising our year end accounts for 2021-2.

In total we spent £12,449 leaving a balance in the bank at 30<sup>th</sup> September of £49,386.

There are existing liabilities for insurance and account examination of £11,818 which will be paid in November.

It is the opinion of the trustees that we have sufficient funds to meet the Charity Commission's criteria of being financially secure for the next 12 months.

Wycas have examined our accounts and they will be posted on our web site in the next few days and lodged with the Charity Commission. Anyone requesting a copy should email either Ed or Julie ([ed@naturalkirklees.org](mailto:ed@naturalkirklees.org) or [treasurer@naturalkirklees.org](mailto:treasurer@naturalkirklees.org)) and we will email a copy.

<p><b>Appointment of Trustees</b>  In accordance with our constitution 1/3 of the Trustees must stand down - this year it is the turn of Phil Slater and David Rudd. Both are willing to be re-appointed. Julie Dempster proposed and Keith Saunders seconded and the 2 Trustees were re-appointed.</p> <p>Stefanie Rofke has been nominated by Ed Day, seconded by Christine Senior and was voted in and joins as an additional Trustee.</p> <p>Kat Woolley has been nominated by Phil Slater, seconded by David Rudd and was voted in and joins as an additional Trustee. Kat has a background in environmental issues.  Additionally Tim spoke of Ed being a safe pair of hands as chair for the next few years.</p>	
<p><b>Appointment of Officers</b>  Chair, Secretary and Treasurer (all existing officers are standing for re-election) Their re-appointment was agreed without objection.</p>	
<p><b>Website and Social Media Update</b>  Stefanie spoke regarding the website and said that it is now useable and if anyone has any suggestions for improvement let us know. There are some issues with the group search which she will be sorting out. A lot of the sections have been re-arranged and should make it easier to find groups and other useful information.</p> <p>Phil spoke about Social Media, in particular Facebook and if groups have any events we have a form so that you can post your event. We want to publicise the work that groups do.</p> <p>Ed said that the more we publicise what we do and how we do it with volunteers, the more it will help us to get the funding for the services we provide. We need reports for Social Media as a mechanism for groups to get their message out. Member groups can post information so that it can go on Facebook and Instagram.</p>	
<p><b>Questions Relating to NK Objectives and Activities</b>  Peter Taylor asked about Social Media posts and how they should be submitted. This should be sent in the finished format to Phil.</p> <p><b>There being no further questions the AGM was closed and the normal quarterly meeting commenced</b></p>	
<p><b>Presentation</b>  Linda Jenkinson from Leeds gave a presentation on the work done helping abandoned Swift chicks as well as injured adult birds. She also explained that she runs talks helping people to enjoy the hobby of birdwatching. It was very interesting and informative as so many bird species, especially Swallows, Swifts and House Martins are in steep decline. She kindly offered to send information for inclusion in the Newsletter</p>	
<p><b>Proposed Dates of Meeting in 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February</li> </ul>	

- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November AGM

These meetings will be held at Beaumont Park Visitor Centre, however, we could hold a meeting elsewhere if people will travel and we could find somewhere which will be free of charge.

An evening meeting was suggested but did not produce any interest.

Ed thanked Friends of Beaumont Park for the free use of their centre and Christine for the cakes and serving the refreshments. If anyone can suggest a location in North Kirklees or propose an evening meeting please let us know.

**Any Other Business**

Ali Stopher spoke about the RSPB and government proposals on environmental regulations. She encouraged people to look at the RSPB website about the Government Attack on Nature. The National Trust, Wildlife Trust and many other organisations are angry at Government proposals. She encouraged people to write to their MP's.

Phil spoke about the Water Framework Directive and the complex issues of this directive. The UK has failed to achieve every deadline set by the EU resulting in the increasing public awareness and anger at the Government allowing water companies to pump Raw Sewage into our rivers.

Dave and Phil visited a Yorkshire Water experimental site where Raw Sewage was converted to clean water using no chemicals at all.

If anyone would like further information Phil will be happy to assist.

There being no other business the meeting closed