

The Minutes of The First Annual General Meeting held by Lambley Reed Pond Group on Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 7pm in The Lambley Village Hall.

Present :

Peter Muir, Steve Brett, Julie Gregory, Stephen Bird, Gina Bajek, Ian Kassell, Karen Hayter, Christine Bridgett, Sarah Rhodes,

Apologies

Judith Clough, Kim Hogden, Bonnie Bramwell and Peter Smith

The Chairman warmly welcomed all the Members to the Meeting and briefly outlined the work the Group since it was established in the Summer of 2021.

The Parish Council had the landowner of the Reserve had delegated the task of improving the Pond and adjoining meadows and woodland to the Group after buying it from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

The formation of the Group Committee and the structure of the Committee

Production of the Group's written Constitution

The Group Mission Statement

Action Plans for each area of the Reserve

- 1) Woodlands
- 2) Meadows
- 3) The Lambley Reed Pond improvement

The Chairman produced the Immediate and Long-Term Action Plans for all the above areas.

The Group had decided that the areas would require manageable sized Sub-Committees forming and these would be from Members or Committee Members who had an interest or were specialists in these fields.

A Sub-Committee for the following were appointed

- A) Pond
- B) Meadows

The work of these Sub-Committees will be more evident as we take each field later in the Meeting.

The Main Officers for the Group were introduced

These are the Chairman Peter Muir, Vice Chair Sarah Rhodes, The Treasurer Steve Brett and The Secretary Ian Kassell.

The Committee consisted of Gina Bajek, Judith Clough, Christine Bridgett, Karen Hayter and Bonnie Bramwell

Communications and Media Person Kim Hogden.

Specialist wildlife expert was Peter Smith from Netherfield Lagoons accompanied by Mike the Entomologist.

Election Of Officers

All the Main Officers agreed to continue in their roles for the forthcoming Year and were proposed seconded and elected unanimously.

The Previous Chairperson Kim Hogden was thanked for agreeing to the role of Chair initially and the work undertaken for a temporary period but due to work commitments she was unable to continue in that role and Peter Muir was elected several months ago to the position. Kim has agreed to continue in the role of Communications for the Group.

Peter Smith our resident wildlife expert was also thanked for his work during the Year not least for his excellent monthly surveys he undertook and the amazing quality photos he and Mike produced of insects in the Reserve.

Peter Smith agreed to be a member of the Meadows Sub-Committee with Karen and Bonnie.

A List of Events undertaken by the Group throughout the Year

The first Group Event was a guided walk with Peter Smith at Netherfield Lagoons in early Summer and Mike the Entomologist showed us many interesting hoverflies and insects.

Netherfield Lagoons are a well-hidden gem for wildlife enthusiasts of all ages bordering the River Trent and behind the Netherfield Shopping Centre we were fortunate to see several of the warblers there in the reed beds.

The walk was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and I'm sure will be repeated in 2023.

The second Event was a walk around our Reserve with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust expert Michael Walker and several other members of the Trust.

The walk was very well attended and we were able to ask Michael many wildlife questions relating to the work we will be undertaking in the Reserve.

The Village Show 2021

The Group thanked Lambley Parish Council for agreeing with the show organisers to donate 50% of the proceeds towards our Group. There was also a good opportunity for the Group to gain publicity and new members when we were allowed a Stall in the Show.

The Village Show 2022

The Group once again thanked the Parish Council for donating 50% of this Year's show proceeds to the Group and as you will see there is much capital expenditure needed in the Reserve.

Lambley Reed Pond – Sub Committee

This is a very important feature of the Reserve and the current Year's drought this Summer has made our work more important.

The Pond Sub-Committee has the following members: Peter Muir, Sarah Rhodes, Steve Brett and Ian Kassell.

Environmental DNA laboratory analysis for the presence of Great Crested and Smooth Newts.

This was very important to ascertain if we have any protected great crested newts or even smooth newts in our Reed Pond.

Regrettably the results proved negative for DNA presence of both species.

The presence of great crested would have limited the work we can do in the pond however since the Summer which exposed the pond lining (installed by Mr Burkes in the early 70s) the base is not clay as we thought and any work could damage this fragile lining of the pond.

THE LONG TERM AND SHORT-TERM ACTION PLANS

The Chairman informed the Meeting that he was going to submit the revised long- and short-term Action Plans to The Parish Council for the different areas of the Reserve on the 17th October 2022.

Chairman : Action

The finalised Action Plans will then be distributed to the Committee and Group Members when they are agreed by the Parish Council.

THE TREASURERS REPORT

The Treasurer gave a brief description and presented the Group Accounts which had been audited this year by Eaton's of Lambley. They had kindly waived their fee for doing the Audit and were thanked by the Group.

A Group Bank Account had been created with the Nat West Bank and the authorising officers are Steve Brett, Peter Muir and Ian Kassell.

All expenditure of 250 pounds and over needs authorisation

Expenditure of £50 and over will need approval at a Committee Meeting or General Meeting.

The balance being that we had 3269 pounds and 13 pence in our Account.

3 Quotations must be obtained for Capital Works taking place on the Reserve. There will be several areas where these will be needed notably replacement of rotten posts and barbed wire fencing and Pond Survey work by specialist aquatic firms.

THE GROUP CONSTITUTION

The Annual General Meeting will be an opportunity to change the Constitution if it was required.

THE DRAFT ACTION PLANS

The Chairman noted that our Parish Council were supportive of all these Action Plans and the Action Plans would continue to evolve considering new challenges we have on the Reserve. These Action Plans are very much a work in progress exercise for all areas of the Reed Pond Reserve.

THE MEADOW SUB-GROUP

The Action Plan had been drafted by the Meadows Sub-Committee and involved keeping thistles and nettles down to a manageable size.

There would be wildlife safe-haven zones created in the Meadows where patches of nettles and thistles would be left to grow and die down naturally and would remain un-cut.

The work to create a wildflower meadow in the Southern side of the Reserve was now happening and areas designated by the group where the soil will be scarified after the year end cut and debris removed to expose the soil.

Several of these 4 x 5 metre long strips would be created in the South meadow (native wildflower seed and yellow rattle seed had already been purchased for these areas) by Karen Hayter. Seed cost approx £75

The North Meadow was mainly thistles, docks, hogweed and nettles and is proving more difficult to manage.

The ideal meadow management technique would involve cattle going on the land over Winter and removed in the following Spring however it was cautioned against as the fencing needed replacement before animals entered the meadows.

The recent Audit undertaken by our Treasurer showed that many large wooden posts required replacement in the very near future on the Reserve.

The Treasurer is also compiling a prospectus of the schedule of works to issue to suitable contractors to replace wire netting and wooden posts.

Action : The Treasurer

There was a suggestion that the posts needing removal could be marked in some way to make identification easier for the contractors.

Julie Gregory informed the Meeting that Steve Rose of Woodborough had been used previously.

THE POND SUB-GROUP

Sarah Rhodes had kindly agreed to compiling a schedule of works for a possible pond survey work by specialist pond contractors being undertaken, this will involve of comprehensive audit of the pond / water quality etc.

The Secretary would forward names of specialist pond contractors used by Gedling Borough and Attenborough Nature Reserve to Sarah.

Action: Ian Kassell

The Pond was a cause of concern with the prolonged drought and the Sub-Group had decided to contact a Geo-locating and water divining expert to try and find the inflow source for the pond.

The 1600s map showed the pond was fed by the cocker beck culvert but in 1973 Mr Burkes thought it had its own underground spring source.

Action: Steve Brett and Ian Kassell to contact Alan Morris

Post Meeting Note Alan Morris will meet members of the Sub-Group on Friday 28th October

THE BIG RAKE UP SEPT 2022

This is the next big village event and will involve the surplus debris being raked off each meadow and piled up near the pond to create important wildlife refuges for newts, frogs and toads.

Flyers will be distributed on lamp posts through Lambley.

Post Meeting Note : A great big thank you to all the Councillor and Group Members and their children who attended on a very sunny weekend.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GROUP INSURANCE 2022 / 2023

The Treasurer and Group had decided to renew their Insurance with the Parish Council's own provider for a further Year. The Insurance required no additional contributions from the Group.

LOCATION OF 2 BENCHES IN THE RESERVE

The location for the 2 benches has still not been agreed but it was most likely they would be in the Southern and South Westerly areas of the Reserve.

MEMORIAL TREE

The memorial tree would be planted in the Northerly area of the meadow towards either the end of October or Mid November 2022.

The un-seasonal very warm October weather may mean planting is delayed into the bare-root season which will start in mid-November.

Action: The Chairman.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next AGM would take place in September 2023 – no dates agreed yet.

