

The Minutes of Lambley Reed Pond Group (LRPG) – Committee Meeting held on 22nd February 2023 in Lambley Village Hall at 7pm

Attendance:

Sarah Rhodes, Steve Brett, Karen Hayter, Christine Bridgett, Ian Kassell and Stephen Bird

1.0 Apology for absence

Peter Muir, Gina Bajek, Kim Hogden, Julie Gregory, Bonnie Bramwell and Peter Smith

Due to the absence of the Chairman, the Treasurer Steve Brett agreed to chair the meeting.

2.0 Minutes from the last meeting held on 11th January 2023

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a correct record. Updates on specific actions from the last meeting were noted as:

1.0 Christine has sourced an accident book to be used at all future volunteering events

2.1 Meeting minutes now include a summary of actions.

3.0 Donation to the LRPG has been received from the proceeds of the 2022 Lambley Village Fayre

4.0/4.2 LRPG Action Plan and Enitial's Ecological Assessment were circulated for review, recommendations from the latter have been included in the 2023 Action Plan

5.0 The master Risk Assessment templates have been uploaded onto the LRPG G-drive

6.0 Christine has spoken to Elaine at the Woodlark re a fund raising event, potentially a Monday evening in either May/June. Proposal for the event to be included on the agenda for the March LRPG meeting.

6.0 Steve has obtained a map of the utility services at the Nature Reserve from National Grid. A copy of which will be provided to the fencing contractor before the fence repairs commence.

7.0 Pruning of brambles e.g. around the bench adjacent the north fence line has been completed

8.2/8.7 Sarah has contacted Andy re the cutting of the overhanging vegetation adjoining Park Lane and reminded Andy re his invoice for previous work

8.8 The LRPG Action Plan has been updated to include a routine check/clearing of the overflow ditch from the reed pond.

8.9 Steve has spoken with Bonnie re the removal of the fallen branches across the east side boundary fence, these will be removed before the fence repairs are carried out

8.10 Arrangements are now in place to post LRPG material e.g. meeting minutes to the Lambley Parish Council web site

The Summary of Actions table has been updated to reflect the above.

3.0 Feedback from The Chair of his attendance with the Parish Council

Meeting attendees were not aware of any feedback from the recent Parish Council meeting.

4.0 Nature Reserve Action Plan

Steve issued version 2 of the draft 2023 Action Plan on 13th February which was used as the basis for the meeting discussion.

4.1 Karen tabled on her and Bonnie's behalf that certain activities related to the meadow should be amended, specifically the timing of the grazing of the sheep on the grassland/meadow should be at the end of August.

In addition, the creation of any new meadow areas should be brought forward into late September and overlap into early October.

It was considered that last year, the seed sowing in November due to a combination of events, was not ideal for germination.

4.2 Steve confirmed that the removal and cutting of the Himalayan balsam was placed in May based on RHS guidance i.e. before flowering and setting seed

4.3 Subject to the amendments in 4.1 above and clarification of path maintenance i.e. laying of chippings being included in the Action Plan. The meeting agreed to accept the Plan for 2023 and on the basis that it will be regularly reviewed and updated as required. The accepted 2023 Plan is included as an Appendix to these minutes.

The Treasurer agreed to distribute the Action Plan to the Committee members with the Chair to discuss the Plan with the Parish Council at their next Meeting. After which, the Action Plan will be published on the Parish Council web site.

It was considered that extracts from the Action Plan could form the basis for regular updates in the Lambley Life magazine and on our Facebook site.

4.4 Volunteering Opportunities

The meeting agreed that the Action Plan could create opportunities for volunteers from the community to help on the Nature Reserve e.g. spreading of wood chippings on the pathway, creating/maintaining meadow flower beds. It was agreed that certain activities due to their nature e.g. reed cutting are not suitable as a volunteering event. Potential for volunteering opportunities will be discussed as we go through the year.

4.5 It was mentioned that we had previously discussed purchasing small packets of wild flowers to be sown in quartiles on newly created meadows for school children. Karen to discuss with Kim.

Action: Karen/Kim

5.0 Treasurers Update

The Treasurer informed the Committee that the account balance currently is 4738.08p which includes the generous donation of £1754.04 from the proceeds of last year's Lambley Village Fayre.

Over the next couple of months several invoices will be paid, most significantly that for the Nature Reserve fence repairs. The balance of our account after the invoices have been paid is likely to be ~ £1000.

Steve updated the meeting in respect of the quotations obtained the thinning of trees on the south and south west corner of the reed pond.

The arborists who quoted for the work were asked for their opinion of the condition of a large ash tree on the north perimeter of the Reserve. Given the extent of decay in the tree trunk, they suggested that the canopy should be significantly cut back to reduce the weight on the trunk and reduce the risk of falling branches etc. It is understood that the ash tree sits on the boundary between the Reed Pond and our neighbour, Katja.

After discussion, the meeting agreed that we would not spend any LRPG funds on tree thinning at this time but focus on the ash tree. Sarah agreed to speak to the Parish Council and Steve will speak with Katja.

Action: Sarah/Steve

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Suggestion of a guided tree / shrub walk around reserve.

Stephen Bird suggested that to encourage interest in the village a guided walk should be considered before Spring.

Action: Committee

6.2 Natural England dates when work should officially complete before the breeding season in 2023, is it guidance or mandatory? The Secretary will contact Peter Smith for this information.

Action: Secretary

7.0 Date of next Meeting

The Date of the next Meeting will be Wednesday, 29th March at 7pm in the Lambley Village Hall

It was noted that the level of attendance on a Wednesday evening was limited and potentially could see insufficient numbers for a quorum. It

was agreed that we should consider alternative days for future meetings, we could also be flexible re the venue if needed.

The Secretary will ask all Committee members to provide dates of their availability for a meeting during the week commencing 24th April.

Action: Secretary

Summary of Actions

Date	Item Number	Action	Action owner	Target date	Status/comments
11/01/2023	1.0	Coordinate re the RA/Accident book entry from October volunteering event	Treasurer	Next mtg	Open
11/01/2023	2.1	Meeting minutes to include a summary of actions	Secretary	Next mtg	Closed
11/01/2023	3.0	Reposition life buoy station	Chair and Treasurer	April	Open
11/01/2023	3.0	BJCM – fund raising opportunity	Treasurer	Next mtg	Open
11/01/2023	3.0	LRPG donations	Treasurer	Next mtg	Closed
11/01/2023	4.0	Circulate current version of the LRPG action plan	Chair	20 th January	Closed
11/01/2023	4.0	Update the Parish Council with the revised LRPG Action Plan	Chair	Next Parish Council mtg	Open
11/01/2023	4.2	Issue Einitial's report	Sarah	18 th January	Closed
11/01/2023	4.2	Submit Einitial's invoice for payment	Sarah	Next mtg	Open
11/01/2023	4.2	Review Einitial's report and develop outline plan	RP subgroup	Next mtg	Closed
11/01/2023	5.0	Gmail account to host Risk Assessments	Treasurer	Next mtg	Open
11/01/2023	6.0	Possible fund-raising event at The Woodlark	Christine	Next mtg	Closed

11/01/2023	6.0	Contact Parish Council re map of the utility services at the Nature Reserve	Treasurer	20 th January	Closed
11/01/2023	8.2	Discuss with Andy M. re overhanging vegetation	Sarah	Next mtg	Closed
11/01/2023	8.3	Installation of benches	Chair	April	Open
11/01/2023	8.4	Pruning of brambles	Chair	Next mtg	Closed
11/01/2023	8.6	Fencing contractors – RP meadow access	Treasurer	31 st March	Open
11/01/2023	8.7	Andy M. invoicing	Sarah	Next Mtg	Closed
11/01/2023	8.8	RP outflow ditch – include in the Action Plan	Chair	25 th January	Closed
11/01/2023	8.9	Removal of fallen branches	Treasurer	Next mtg	Open
22/02/2023	4.4	Update and issue 2023 Action Plan	Treasurer	By 25 th Feb'y	Open
22/02/2023	4.5	Purchase packs of seeds for school children	Karen/Kim	Next mtg	Open
22/02/2023	5.0	Ash tree – next steps	Sarah and Steve	Within 1 week	Open
22/02/2023	6.1	Guided walk around the Nature Reserve	Secretary	Next Mtg	Open
22/02/2023	6.2	Natural England dates when work ends on Reserve	Secretary	Next Mtg	Open
22/02/2023	7.0	Meeting availability of Committee / PC reps for w/c 24 th April	Secretary	Next Mtg	Open

