## Minutes of the Lambley Reed Pond Group Meeting

**On Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7pm in Lambley Village Hall**.

**1.0 Present:**

Committee: Bonnie Bramwell (BB) Vice-Chair, Steve Brett (SB), Christine Bridgett (CB, Ian Kassell (IK), Gina Bajek (GB), Sarah Rhodes (SR), Karen Hayter (KAH) and guest Judith Clough.

**2.0 Apologies**: Stephen Bird (SGB), Kim Hogden (KH) and Len Harvey (LH).

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| **Item Number** | **Description** | **Action /**  **Date** |
| **3.0** | **The Minutes of the last meeting** dated 8th April 2025 were accepted as a correct record, subject to the following comment. |  |
| **4.0**  **4.1**  **5.0**  **6.0**  **7.0**  **8.0**  **9.0**  **10.0**  **11.0**  **12.0**  **13.0**  **14** | GB noted that the final cut of reeds was in late February 2025 and the March reed cut was postponed due to the bird nesting season starting in March.  BB noted that she had raised specifically that all the Alders to the north boundary adjacent to the pond edge had been identified for coppicing leaving standards which will greatly affect the high level canopies and create an eye-sore. Also LH had also advised of his concerns regarding the extension coppicing. Several committee members had requested that SGB would circulate the Wilder Trent Application, but this was still outstanding.  BB also noted an omission from the minutes. BB confirmed that not under any circumstances is any work from the committee in relation to raising ground levels on the property pertaining to Reed Pond House. BB advised that providing the channel from the pond to Cocker Beck is cleared annually, there would be no need for further action needed from either the PC/RPC relating to water ingress on Reed Pond House land.  **Matters Arising**  (4.1) Grazing Management Strategy  The revised grazing strategy would mean sheep arriving in early September and leaving at the end of September (the final cut would be in October weather permitting.  (4.2)BB Advised that she had spoken to Tony and Val and proving the committee are in agreement, they have suggested that their sheep graze in September and January/February annually (the month would depend on the weather). This would allow improved establishment of meadow plants.  SB advised he would incorporate this into the current action plan. Meadow  (4.3)KAH and IK had cordoned off the south meadow from the public to safeguard ground nesting birds and SR had installed the warning signage.  (4.4) GB raised that the benches need to be checked, and that the action point had not been confirmed as completed. SGB to check benches for health and safety.  There is evidence that informal walkways are being created by wildlife so KAH/IK would only trim around orchard trees the north bench and create a pathway to the south benches.  Management Strategy / Action Plan  (5.0) The Management Plan would be updated with the new grazing strategy included and forwarded to the Committee shortly. Apart from this information there will be no further changes to the actual management strategy.  (5.1) SB advised that quote would be obtained for the eastern boundary fencing and the re-instatement of the Reed Pond House access gate but authority would need to be gained from the PC. BB advised that the fencing had been taken down last year and this had not been advised previously. SB advised that SGB would action and present at the next PC meeting, BB advised she would liaise with the PC the following day as individuals had already gotten through directly into the pond area, disturbing nesting birds and also presenting with a danger to themselves due to mud/water levels.  (5.2) Possibility of future cattle grazing  (BB) advised that she has been unable to progress further cattle grazing within the reserve and it was agreed by all that grazing would be with sheep  (5.2) Due to concerns over recent instance of anti-social behaviour occurring near the pond disturbing breeding birds, there would be no further benches introduced on the southern meadow.  Pond – Water Quality levels etc  KAH was concerned that the new drainage ditch running along the northern perimeter of the Reserve from Mill Field would also restrict water entering Reed Pond. The Spring drought was also a significant factor this Year.  **6.0**  **The Monthly Action Plan**  BB read through the action points for May, KAH advised that she would strim around the three benches and pathways but will refrain from other areas as GB and others expressed concern over disturbing nesting birds. KB to also feed back growth survey of the wildflower meadow and also outside the seed beds. It was agreed following BB advisement that a check for Himalayan Balsam would be scheduled for next month to allow more time for growth so they could be identified more easily. Date to be agreed at next meeting.    **Treasurers Report**  SB reported that the current balance of the LRPG bank account was £1684.55p. The outstanding Liability was the throw line purchased by SR and we still await the Arborists survey fee of £250.  **Pond**  BB raised the matter that the Pond is always on the agenda but nothing is discussed about what we want to achieve, what would be the costs of any works, grants available etc. BB advised that as a group we need to put together steps forward.  **Hedges/Boundaries**  BB raised four boundaries, refer to 5.1 for Eastern Boundary discussion. The North and South boundary it was agreed we would need to establish an action plan to tackle these areas.  There would be a full review of the health of the newly planted shrubs and orchard trees later in the Year but the drought-like conditions we have this Year is putting them in stress -watering was essential in dry periods. However it was agreed that we would need to monitor the infill of shrubs/plants due to the dry weather and replace in October if necessary. This will be added to the action plan. SB to action.  **Woodland**  Several Committee members and our wildlife advisor had concerns over the scale of alder tree removal recommended in the North woodland. The tight timescale for submitting the application had not allowed discussion of this by Committee and the scheduled walk around the woodland had not been agreed for Committee members. The committee agreed the 22nd May at 6.30pm for a group walk-around to discuss the scope of the application to the Wilder Trent Bid. SB requested that committee were concerned about the scope of the work and not the total application.  SGB to circulate the Application to Committee members and LH.  **Future Events**  Quiz and Summer Fayre.  GB provided an update regarding the quiz and number of tables booked. She asked that all committee members speak to everyone they know to promote the event. GB advised that 15 tables were required to make the event viable and that a decision would be made at the next Committee Meeting whether the event would proceed.  The Lambley Village Show on Sat Sept 6th would see the Reed Pond Group attending with a stall. CB was liaising with the organizer John Garton. CB shared a great idea for the show to raise money, and we would all agreed to focus on this once the quiz had taken place.  **Feedback from the Information Group**  (12.1) BB produced a quotation for the leaflet printing, 200 pre-folded cost £130 from a local company. SB advised if the printing could be postponed until we could confirm the quiz was to go ahead.  Seasonal Information Boards  (12.2) BB informed the meeting that the cost of seasonal information boards had increased recently to £606 plus VAT. She advised the price was negotiated to £479.75 due to the bulk order and that 2 boards would be sponsored by local businesses. All boards would be made from recycled material. The group are aiming to install 3 boards next to each bench and a fourth if funding available for the orchard. BB produced the full quotation to the committee. KH advised that the committee couldn’t afford the boards, however BB confirmed that all the boards would be sponsored privately and not out of the committee funds.  Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Projects  (12.3) BB was liaising with the DofE Co-ordinator at the local secondary school to have the student participants doing tasks around Reed Pond as well as the Church. BB detailed the hours worked for various levels of the Duke of Edinburgh awards.  13 hours – one hour over 13 weeks for Bronze award  26 hours – one hour over 26 weeks for Silver award  52 hours – one hour over 12 months for Gold award  **Fund Raising Activities**  No further fund raising activities to discuss.  **The Community v Nature balance**  The Group had been contacted by a person who was visiting the Reserve who observed a family with their children showing no regard for the wildfowl on the pond. Their actions caused great disturbance on that occasion. Unfortunately, we cannot educate some members of the public. The Committee are totally sympathetic to her concerns many of us share these, we must be aware that when we make a wildlife friendly area more open to the community these events will happen with increasing frequency. Following the observations by this person and neighbours also, it was agreed no further community initiatives would take place on the Reserve and the additional bench will not be installed.  CB to update BS what was discussed.  **Any other Business**  None recorded  The Date of the next Meeting  The next Meeting will be held in the meeting room of the Lambley Village Hall on Tuesday 8th June 2025 at 7pm. | **SB**  **All to Note**  **SGB**  **SB**  **SGB/BB**  **NFA**  **ALL TO NOTE**  **SGB**  **SGB**  **SB/SGB**  **Review at next Meeting**  **SB**  **GB**  **All to note**  **Info Group**  **BB**  **CB** |