

The Minutes of our second Annual General Meeting held by The Lambley Reed Pond Group on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7pm in The Lambley Village Hall.

Present :

Karen Hayter, Steve Brett, Dawn Edwards, Stephen Bird, Gina Bajek, Ian Kassell, Christine Bridgett, Kim Hogden, Peter Smith and Janet Bridgford.

Apologies Sarah Rhodes and Julie Gregory

The Minutes of our first AGM were accepted as a correct record.

Karen our Acting Chairperson warmly welcomed all to the Meeting

Item 1

The Acting Chair's Report

This Report had already been circulated prior to Committee Members and copies were distributed in the Meeting. (a copy of the Report will accompany these Minutes).

The summary of the Report dealt with the main items.

The Action Plan from Oct 22 to present.

The Garage Sale event

Schedule of Volunteer opportunities

The Meadows and the work undertaken at Reed Pond.

All were thanked in the Meeting for their most welcome contributions including donations from various sources, labour and of course the owner of the Reserve, our Lambley Parish Council who had been so supportive and thanks finally to all the businesses in the village for their support.

Dawn Edwards on behalf of the Parish Council echoed this sentiment on behalf her fellow Councillors. Kim Hogden our social media person noted the number of favourable comments the Reed Pond page had received.

## Item 2

The Constitution and possible amendments requiring ratification by Committee.

The Treasurer requested that we change the wording to say “authorise expenditure” for small amounts of finance to replace “sign off” expenditure.

Larger items of expenditure over £250 would need 3 quotations to be obtained.

All Meetings would now be Reed Pond Meetings – open to members of the public.

These changes were accepted unanimously by the Meeting and Committee members.

Action : Treasurer to amend in the Constitution.

## Item 3

### The Treasurers Report

The Treasurer distributed and submitted the Accounts to the Meeting. This Report had been audited by our village Accountants Eatons who had for the second year waived their fees for doing the work.

The balance as at 28/9/23 was £1440.89p

The main items of expenditure were the urgently needed repairs to fencing and new posts to allow livestock to graze the Reserve – due to it being a large item of expenditure 3 quotes were obtained the lowest being £2,700 and the cost of purchasing seed for the south meadow as seed from local sources failed.

The Accounts were accepted Unanimously. (A copy of the Accounts attached).

Proposed Stephen Bird

Seconded Christine Bridgett

### Item 3

#### Election of Officers

All the existing Officers agreed to continue in their roles for a further Year and were elected unanimously.

Acting Chair Karen Ward

Proposed by Stephen Bird - Seconded by Gina Bajek

Treasurer Steve Brett      Proposed by Gina Bajek, Seconded by Christine Bridgett.

Secretary Ian Kassell      Proposed by Stephen Bird Seconded by Peter Smith

It was decided that a Vice Chair was needed to deputise for the Acting Chair. Stephen Bird agreed to take the role.

Vice Chair Stephen Bird      Proposed by Steve Brett Seconded by Peter Smith

### Item 4

#### Any Other Business

##### Item 4.1

Condition of the Ash Tree on the Northern boundary of the reserve.

The Meeting discussed a reported observation from Stephen Bird that a large branch had broken away and is wedged loosely in the tree. Dawn Edwards agreed it was the responsibility of our Parish Council to find someone to remove the offending branch as soon as possible as it was facing the public footpath. The ownership and responsibility for the tree was still unclear but it was thought to be partly owned by the Parish and Katja Watmore who has the land adjacent. The definitive O/S map purchased does not clarify the owner either.

Action: Dawn Edwards for the Parish Council.

## Item 4.2

### Fund Raising Meeting for Reed Pond Group

A Fund-Raising Meeting had been booked for 14<sup>th</sup> November at the Robin Hood as there were several big-ticket expenditure items scheduled for late 2023 and Spring 2024.

It was important that the Group investigate all opportunities to generate additional revenue.

Dawn Edwards kindly offered her expertise to prepare Community Grant applications.

All Committee members are requested to either attend or give ideas for the Meeting.

Action: Committee members

## Item 4.3

Attendance of Reed Pond Group Representatives at Parish Council monthly Meetings.

The Secretary would make every effort to find a representative at future Parish Council Meetings.

Action: The Secretary to liaise with Chair / Treas and Vice Chair

## Item 4.4

### Long Term Action Plan

A long-term Action Plan will be submitted with the traditional Yearly Action Plan. This will include a wish list of projects that could be considered if finance became available in the future.

Action: The Committee

#### Item 4.5

The Parish Council's vision for a pedestrian walkway around Reed Pond.

Dawn and other Parish Councillors on a recent site visit around the east side of the reserve investigated the possibilities for a round walkway on the inside of the pond.

The Chair informed Dawn we had already produced a Report which looked at this possibility and should have been distributed to the Parish Council but had been included as an attachment sheet to recent Minutes – this costed out this idea and other options like implementing a pond dipping platform. The Report also highlighted ecological aspects of disturbance to the resident waterfowl were also considered and likely costs for each of the options.

These costs for such a walkway currently ruled out this proposal. Gina Bajek was also very concerned about the health and safety implications for each option.

The Committee informed Dawn about significant flooding problems associated with the area to the east behind the pond to the East which Stephen Bird and Steve Brett are currently assessing with a possible hydrology and drainage consultant. The walkway would also need a substantial wooden bridge over this part which had high-cost implications. This could be one of the projects included in the long-term Action Plan when finances allow.

There are also parts of the pond area where our resident coots and moorhen and ducks' nest and these must be preserved. A section of the reed beds will be managed and cut in the Spring of 2024. This would give the public an uninterrupted on the west side of the pond near the new bench without disturbing nesting birds and amphibians.

The walkway would affect wildlife significantly in the short term and cannot be done in the nesting season, the problem of dogs off leads would need to be addressed too as geese do sometimes nest in the woodland near the pond.

This would be an important item in our next Reed Pond Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November.

#### Item 4.6

Go Fund Me donations page.

Kim Hodgen would investigate how the small amount of money could be included in our accounts currently it is only just over £100 pounds.

Kim understood that the page needed closing to enable these funds to be transferred to our Account.

Action: Kim Hogden

#### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next AGM would take place in September 2024 – no dates agreed yet.

