

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BIODIVERSITY GROUP MINUTES 28 JANUARY 2025

Attendees

Caroline Underwood CU , Chair	Madeline Fraser MF
Ray Magness RM	Melanie Storey MS , Secretary

Apologies: Catherine Grigg **CG**, Richard Salmon **RS**, Peter Clark **PC**

Item 1 Record of the Last Meeting

- The Chair expressed thanks to Aiden Joy, who has left the Group, for his valuable contributions
- The minutes of the last meeting were approved
- Action review:

No	Action Description	Status/Update
36.13	CU to ascertain as to which organisations cut grass in the village and exactly which areas they cover	Completed, Parish Clerk is identifying responsibility and recording on a map of the Parish
37.5	MS to add the review of the Biodiversity Action List to the agendas for the March and September meetings each year	On-going
40.6	CU to close the Friends of Buckden Footpaths Group and to create an action group to focus on identifying issues with our footpaths and the work required for their improvement	Completed, group informed and as first action group cleared path near AWA pumping station
43.1	CU to check with RS about his concerns as to the state of the Ouse Valley Way	Completed
43.2	CU to arrange for the wildflower area in Lucks Lane to be added to the handymen's 'no cut' list	Completed
43.3	RM to approach Buckden Towers with a view to creating a new native hedge	Outstanding
43.4	CU to discuss with RS increasing the number of hedging plants by the book swap	RM will add hedging plants to this area
43.5	MS to add organising a biodiversity week to the agenda for the next meeting	Completed
43.6	MF to continue to publicise the planting in Lucks Lane and the work in gaining a conservation award for the churchyard	On going, progress has been made
43.7	MS to include the management plan for the care and development of the habitat in the churchyard as an agenda item for the next meeting	Completed
43.8	RM to contact HDC to ask them about supplying new trees for planting in the village	Completed, trees planted
43.9	RM to contact HDC to ask them to inspect a couple of ash trees, which are their responsibility, that may be suffering from ash dieback	Closed, the trees have recovered
43.10	RM to draft a formal proposal for the planting a mixed native hedge, under planted with native bulbs, along the entrance to the allotments	Completed

43.11	CU to discuss with the Parish Clerk adding the maintenance of the proposed hedge by the allotments to the handymen's schedule in the future	Completed
43.12	RM to investigate the Biodiversity Net Gain law in relation to the protection of the hedge along the border of the allotments and where the proposed housing development is planned to take place and to send the details to CU	Completed, information passed to the Planning Group
43.13	CU to forward the information RM gathers on the Biodiversity Net Gain law, in relation to the protection of the hedge along the border of the allotments and where the proposed housing development is planned to take place, to the Parish Council lead on large scale planning	Completed
43.14	RS to create a planting plan for Lucks Lane	Completed
43.15	CU to review the current budget figures with the Parish Clerk	Completed
43.16	MF to publicise the 'Big Wild Walk' through the Parish website and social media	Completed

Item 2 Green Infrastructure

- The Annual Footpath Check Report was reviewed with outstanding actions listed below
- It was noted that a resident has constructed a shed that drains rainwater directly on to Footpath B4, which could lead to damage of the footpath; the location is just past the junction with Footpath B1
- Identification of areas where clearance is required was deferred to the next meeting

Action 44.1 MS to identify the Housing Association that is responsible for Cranfield Close (Footpath B1)

Action 44.2 CU to contact the Housing Association that is responsible for Cranfield Close in respect of the collapsed fence (Footpath B1)

Action 44.3 RM to cut back the foliage obscuring the sign pointing to Footpath B8 from the Brampton Wood road (Footpath B8)

Action 44.4 CU to report to Cambs CC the branch across Footpath B8 near the junction with Footpath B7 (Footpath B8)

Action 44.5 MS to add consideration of putting a note on the website that there are difficulties with the 'Roundabout Buckden' walk on the agenda for the next meeting (Footpath B14)

Action 44.6 CU to ask the Parish Clerk what progress has been made with insertion of a dog fouling sign at the beginning of the Waterworks road (Footpath B15)

Action 44.7 CU to ask the landowner to mow the route of Footpath D15 to improve accessibility (Footpath D15)

Action 44.8 MS to Source 2 signs for Footpath D14 (Footpath D14)

Action 44.9 MS to place the installation of 2 signs and stabilisation of one sign on the agenda for the next meeting (Footpath D14)

Action 44.10 CU to take the issue of the resident's shed draining rainwater on to Footpath B4 to the Planning Group

Action 44.11 MS to add identification of areas where clearance is required to the agenda for the next meeting

Item 3 Biodiversity

- It was agreed that the Big Green Week, 7-15 June, would be a good opportunity to promote biodiversity in line with HDC's 'Biodiversity for All' project, the activities considered were:
 - Conducting the Annual Footpath Check during this period
 - Encouraging residents to use flower bombs to increase the occurrence of wildflowers available to bees and other insects
 - Creation of a Beeline Map
 - Planting up the planter outside of the Lion hotel to help reduce the impact of CO₂ and particulates in the High Street
 - Planting bulbs along the road to Offord and on the piece of land opposite Greenway
- It was agreed that residents should be reminded about ensuring hedge cutting does not compromise biodiversity
- It was noted that the final spotters' guides have been published and that the intention is to add QR codes to enable people to access more in depth information
- Churchyard Award update:
 - A planning visit with the award organisation was held in October and the amended plan was sent to St Mary's for consideration
 - St Mary's requested certain changes and the plan was amended accordingly
 - It was noted that St Mary's is checking with the Diocese whether a Faculty is required for any of the planned work
 - It was noted that MF is discussing the cutting regime with the handymen and will report back to the Village Maintenance Group
 - The Churchyard Biodiversity Management Plan can be found at Annex A
- It was noted that the first phase of the planting in Lucks Lane was completed in November and the next tranche of plants and shrubs will be added in February
- Tree update:
 - The area in the allotments identified for the creation of an orchard has been cleared and 5 apple and 2 plum trees have been acquired
 - Allotment hedge in relation to housing development:
 - The proposal is to bolster the fence line by planting a hedge either side of the gate
 - The hedge will be a mix of Hawthorn, Holly, Field Maple and Hazel; all native species
 - The saplings are being provided by HDC at no cost
 - The area to the right of the gate will be planted now; the 2 fruit trees growing there will be included in the hedge as 'standards'
 - The planting on the other side will be in the winter; the exact line of this planting has yet to be agreed
 - It was noted that Fred Days' memorial tree had been over pruned

Action 44.12 MF to place an article in the Roundabout and use other social media channels, to seek expressions of interest for the issue of flower bombs for residents to use in April and May

Action 44.13 MF to identify the best way for residents to register expressions of interest in using flower bombs

Action 44.14 MF to explore how to create a Beeline Map recording all the areas of wildflowers in the Parish

Action 44.15 CU to establish ownership of the planter outside of the Lion hotel

Action 44.16 MF and RS to create a planting plan for the planter outside of the Lion hotel

Action 44.17 MF to consider what could be planted along the Offord road and on the piece of land opposite Greenway

Action 44.18 CU to place a reminder about hedge cutting in to the Parish Council section of the Roundabout

Action 44.19 MF to explore adding QR codes to the spotters' guides

Action 44.20 CU and RM to meet the Chair of the Community Allotments Advisory Group to discuss the line for the second phase of planting of the allotment hedge

Action 44.21 CU to ask the Parish Clerk to discuss the management of Fred Days' memorial tree with the handymen

Item 4 Budget

- It was noted that £3,510 of the current year's £6,200 budget is still available
- It was noted that a budget of £6,000 has been approved for next year:
 - Tree work and maintenance £1,500
 - Tree planting £500
 - Wildflower planting £1,000
 - Wildflower area maintenance £2,000
 - Footpaths £300
 - Leaflets £200
 - Churchyard award £500

Item 5 AOB

- A request has been received for a memorial tree to be planted and it was decided, given the roles the individual held in the Village, it might be appropriate for the tree to be placed on Village Hall Trust land
- Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 18 March 2025 from 1900 hours at 55 High Street

Action 44.22 CU to pass on the request to plant a memorial tree to the Village Hall Trust with the offer that the Parish Tree Warden is happy to advise on species and site

Annex A Churchyard Biodiversity Management Plan

St Mary's Churchyard

Key

- 1 Summer flowers/ pollinator area
- 2 Nettles and brambles
- 3 Borders to be re-planted along path and 1m strip behind to be mown every 2-4 weeks
- 4 Ashes memorials, grass kept mown, seeded with forget-me-nots
- 5 Mown pathways between long grass areas
- 6 Bluebells, aconites, shade tolerant plants
- 7 Stumpery with ferns, remove self-set sycamore
- 8 Area for small pond or wildlife area
- 9 Compost heap
- 10 Mown grass every 2-4 weeks
- 11 Long grass cut twice a year
- 12 Trees/scrub nest boxes
- 13 Spring flower area
- 14 Fenced tomb area to be kept clear mown path

