

South Norfolk Tree Warden Tree Warden Forum

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting Monday 27th January 2016 held at SNDC 6.30 -8.00

Present: Committee members: Sarah Barney, Rona Beardsell, Chris Brooks, Steve Dowall, Henry Gowman, Mike Hall, Jim Riley,

Others: Maureen Bennet, Robert Maidstone,

SNDC: Kerrie Gallagher, Julie Ringer

Guest: Jon Stokes Tree Council

1. Matters arising from meeting held on 18.11.15:

None, all matters arising are on the agenda.

2. Arrangements for East Anglian Tree Warden Forum:

Jon Stokes led the discussion and outlined the format and financial protocol.

The suggested date is Saturday 24th September 10.00-16.00 t.b.c
SNDC premises proposed as venue and Kerrie to confirm.

The funding will come from the £15 attendance fees with 60-80 people anticipated. Expenditure will be on venue, speakers fees/expenses and catering. All monies received and paid out will go through the Tree Council.

Tom Williamson, Professor of Landscape History at UEA has agreed to be a speaker/field trip leader. Details to be confirmed.

The Tree Council will find two other speakers.

A theme of 'The Tree Landscape of the Future in East Anglia' (wording to be finalised) was agreed.

Robert Maidstone is to contact David Sergeant re: the proposed field trip to Fritton Common and liaise with the secretary.

3. Final wording of the constitution.

It was helpful to have Jon Stokes at the meeting to give the official intention of the wording provided by the Tree Council. Robert Maidstone felt from his experience of dealing with Constitutions that despite one missing clause being reinstated that he was still unable to sign it as it would need up to nine months work on scrutinizing the wording.

With reluctance the committee, with Jon Stokes guidance, agreed that this was not necessary and would detract from the purpose of the SNTWF and therefore Robert would not be able to sit on the committee. His skills as a dedicated and well informed Tree Warden were reiterated and it is hoped his skills will be well used in his role as a member of the Forum. Robert, in reply, stated that he wished the committee well and held no resentment.

4. Rules for membership:

Henry Gowman to finalise and circulate draft.
The reissuing of ID badges or cards was also discussed.

Funding for the SNTWF was discussed with Jon Stokes saying that an annual operational budget of £1000 was proving necessary for independent Tree Warden groups. Kerrie was certain that ongoing community grants of £300 would be available for insurance/running costs. Another source could be through the Parish Councils.

Jon Stokes gave good advice on using projects as levers for funding and gave examples.

SNDC is releasing a list of members' contact details and will then close the list for those Tree wardens who have not yet given permission for their details to be circulated.

5. Insurance for Members:

The matter of insurance, bought up by a member at the Forum in December, was discussed and three sources for cover given by Jon Stokes

Through the Parish Council, through Local Authority cover for volunteers and through the Trust for Conservation Volunteers. These options will be investigated by Henry and Kerrie.

6. Number, frequency and venue of membership meetings per year.

Of late the number of Tree Warden meetings had been reduced but there was agreement that the former system of six per year was conducive to maintaining the momentum of the group and made less impact on an individual if a meeting could not be attended. Jon Stokes confirmed these thoughts and suggested that two meetings per year could be held in parish venues for Tree Wardens to highlight work and any difficulties which could be the subject of a Brains' Trust.

Speakers from the membership could give presentations and SNDC professionals invited. Robin Taylor has offered to speak.

7. Frequency of Committee Meetings

These could mirror the members meetings and sometimes be held prior to the main meeting

8. A.O.B

Jon Stokes suggested that we quickly decide on a project so that Tree Warden work and profile in South Norfolk could be promoted.

The 25th Anniversary of the Network might provide a focus for this.

Jon will attend two South Norfolk general or committee meetings per year and can share good practice and lessons learned from the other independent groups.

He will next attend on April 11th re: the Conference.

Jon was thanked for his input and the meeting closed.

Next meeting: Committee meeting to be held at SNDC offices on Monday 11th April at 5.30pm followed by a general meeting at 7pm. Jon Stokes will speak and give an overview from the point of view of The Tree Council and Henry will give an update on how our formation is progressing.

Sarah Barney - Secretary. 31.01.16