

## **South Norfolk Tree Warden Forum (SNTW Forum)**

Minutes of the meeting held at SNDC on Monday 11th April 2016 7.00pm

Apologies:

Sue Beare (now replaced in Wacton by Peter Jacques) Ann Roberts, Linda Davy, Julie Ringer, Jim Riley. Jim Riley Jon Stokes. Jane Wheeldon Linda Davey Ann Roberts John Crowfoot Chris Popplewell

There was no formal agenda. Henry welcomed the members and showed us the newly created website. This will carry necessary documents - insurance, constitution, tree ordering forms etc, be a show case for tree warden's work for which photographs are sought, will carry information, details of events and articles of interest and look to be a communication platform for queries and information sharing. The site will be public and have a link from the SNDC website so it is hoped that the public will engage. We will investigate the possibility of setting up a 'chat' line for discussing matters of joint concern and interest or seeking advice from other wardens.

Kerry Gallagher (SNDC) outlined the new arrangements for managing the ordering of trees. Bussey's have agreed that the funding will come directly to the SNTW Forum. A central ordering scheme will run with wardens sending in their application on line or by post to the Committee by a given date – probably by the end of September. A central order will then be placed with delivery and distribution done at SNDC. This will be easier for individuals, more cost effective and mirrors the previous system. A diagram is on the website illustrating the process. Volunteers will be sought in the Autumn to help with organising orders for distribution.

The necessity for rigorous identification of need, permission, site inspection and risk assessment was stressed and an example of the paperwork to be submitted and the subsequent planting done at Poringland Lake is on the website. When placing an order your committee will need to know the answers to – Where – Why -When - How – type of tree and cost? A landowners agreement form must be included and the detail of who is undertaking after care. The table of trees available from BHS and costings is on the website. [www.southnorfolktreewardens.org](http://www.southnorfolktreewardens.org)

Henry then gave details of arrangements for the **Regional Tree Warden Forum** to be held at Tasburgh Village Hall on Saturday 24th September. A call for volunteers to assist was made. The field trip to see a wood pasture system at Fritton Common, the expert speakers on tree disease and the implications for the tree landscape of the future should make this a stimulating day and a chance for us to highlight our work.

The Insurance Scheme was explained. We are insured for public liability. The full policy can be seen on the web. **It is important to note:** that there is no cover for using power tools or chainsaws nor working from height. If a warden wishes to use such tools they must obtain their own insurance cover. Due diligence to health and safety must be observed – the wearing of hi-vis tabards and proper workmanlike clothing etc, and ensuring there are no hazards to working in the area ( overhead or underground services etc) If a warden is leading a group of volunteers in a planting/maintenance

project then they are also covered but must be briefed by the warden on all aspects above.

### **The 25th anniversary of the Tree Warden scheme in South Norfolk. 2016**

One idea is for each of the six larger areas to design a walk(s) which would include plantings or works carried out by tree wardens. Local trees or sites of interest could be included and an accompanying leaflet produced. This would be to encourage a closer look at trees in the landscape, draw attention to our work and hope that through the inclusion of details of local facilities that visitors might come and communities benefit too. Funding would be sought for publications. Your imagination is the only limit. Henry asked that wardens get together in their area groups, come up with ideas and routes and bring them to the next meeting with OS maps. Contact details of wardens in your group will be circulated shortly. Kerry showed us a good example of a walk booklet produced by Shotesham residents.

Finally it was suggested that we wear our name badges to the meetings if we still have them and that high viz jackets and name badges will be organized for new wardens – perhaps start again with all wardens.

Up to two thirds (80) of the parishes (121) now have a tree warden and approaches to the missing parishes will be made. Approximately 25 people attended this meeting and the day will be changed each time. The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

The next meeting will be held in early June, date to be announced. Jon Stokes from the Tree Council has been invited.

Sarah Barney Secretary 12th April 2016