

**Minutes of the South Norfolk Tree Wardens' Forum Committee meeting held at SNDC on
Wednesday January 18th 2017: 7pm.**

Apologies: None

Present: Henry Gowman, Steve Dowall, Chris Brook, Roma Beardsall, Sarah Barney

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st November were agreed:

Matters arising: It has not been possible to make contact with Jim Riley re: sitting on the committee. We can only hope that all is well.

New committee members: The committee is short of members and much work is falling on the Chair. We are only five and need 8-10 for effective and democratic representation. It would then be possible for members to head sub-committees drawn from the wider membership and so spread the workload and gain from a wider expertise. Henry is to invite nominations for appointment at the AGM in March.

Trees: Planting

We have planted just under 3000 trees/hedgerow plants so far this year in twelve parishes. Another 400 are due to be planted in February at the Norwich Research Park, Colney. (NRP)

Cost: Funding from Bussey's may not be secure after 2017 so Henry/Steve will make enquiries as to the ongoing commitment.

Replacement of felled trees. This was bought up following the enforcement of the conditions of a felling license at the NRP. While it was considered good practice for land owners and house holders to replant appropriately it was not clear whether mandatory replacement only applied in cases where planning permission was sought and became a condition. Henry will investigate.

Pollarding: Following a report commissioned by Norfolk Wildlife Trust on the decline of the practice of pollarding trees and their desire to see this practice continued, NWT would like to initiate a project throughout Norfolk but starting with SNTWN with tree wardens pollarding at least one tree in each represented parish as a start. We could contribute significantly to the health and wildlife diversity of our trees. Henry to pursue.

Finance: Steve circulated the accounts for 2016/7 to date. Copies will be available at the AGM. We hold a balance of £6,814.79. This is deliberately high until we know that on-going funding will be secure. An application for Charitable Institute Organisation is to be made. Steve to process.

Badges: Labels will be available for the AGM

The meeting finished at 7.55pm

Dates: Next committee meeting and AGM to be announced.

**Minutes of the South Norfolk Tree Wardens' Forum General meeting held at SNDC on Wednesday
January 18th 2017: 8pm.**

Apologies: Robert Hosea, Michael Brett, Lynn Thomas

Present: Roma Beardsall, Brooke, Paul Chapman, Caistor St, Edmunds, Sarah Barney, Colney, Pauline Williamson, Costessey, Jane Harris, East Carleton, Peter Aspinall, Flordon, Robert Maidstone, Great Moulton, Anne Edwards, Hethersett, Henry Gowman and Steve Dowall, Poringland, Raz Woollacott, Shotesham, Michael Matthews, Toft Monks, Peter Jaques, Wacton.

Guests: Geoff Doggett, River Waveney Trust, Helen Sibley, SNDC

Committee Members: A call was put out for volunteers to join the committee. You are needed. Tree expertise not necessary just the ability to work with others on a committee. (No response)

Tree Pollarding: Following a report commissioned by Norfolk Wildlife Trust on the decline of the practice of pollarding trees and their desire to see this practice continued, it was suggested that SNTWN wardens pollard at least one tree in each represented parish as a start. By doing this we could contribute significantly to the health and wildlife diversity of our trees. To support this project a demonstration could be given on a tree at the SNDC office grounds at the AGM. Advice on trees which are most suited to pollarding and when to do it would also be given. NB SNC Offices not available – scheduled to take place at AGM. Date/venue to be confirmed.

Tree Planting: Tree planting data to date was given, just under 3000 trees/hedgerow plants so far this year in twelve parishes. Another 400 are due to be planted in February at the Norwich Research Park, Colney. (NRP) While this was good news it also means that with 129 parishes/shared parishes 116 have had no new planting done through the tree warden scheme. Many parishes remain unrepresented and Steve Dowall, has volunteered to write to the clerks to encourage them to appoint a tree warden.

Tree Planting Day: Tuesday 7th February: 10.00am. at The Norwich Research Park: Meet at the Centrum building which is adjacent to the car park. Free refreshments and free parking.

All hands are needed for this as fifteen oaks and 260 metres of hedging are to be planted in this joint Hethersett and Colney project. Anne Edwards will rally some John Innes students to help but experienced tree planters are needed to demonstrate and oversee the planting. Bring a spade and a high viz jacket if you have one. It is hoped that the EDP might come and that Bussey's can get some publicity as well as the Tree Warden Forum. If you have no planting experience and would like to learn then come, watch others and join in.

Local Tree Warden's report: Pauline Williamson, tree warden for Costessey, gave a power point presentation on work to regenerate a bluebell glade in the woodland at East Hills. This is an ancient woodland although not classified as such, and has been overrun by brambles and sycamore

seedlings so the bluebells were struggling. Pictures taken ten years ago showed how lovely it was. With the help of a few volunteers and the Norwich Fringe project the glade was cut with a brush cutter, the bramble roots dug out and sycamore seedlings removed. It looked transformed and the bluebells should flourish. Anne has made great efforts to secure links with NWT, UEA and Easton College to gain volunteer support for the continuation of this project and one in West Hill woods. This was an inspiring piece of work. Pauline will give dates of future work days so that we can help too.

Tree Disease: Anne Edwards gave feedback from a recent meeting with DEFRA on tree disease, in particular Ash Dieback. She showed us the website: www.observatree.org.uk/ which gives an ID guide of tree diseases some of which are relevant to East Anglian trees such as oak decline and needle blight. This site is run by the Forestry Commission and DEFRA.

Ash Dieback: Researchers are looking at the pathogen and fungus resistance and Anne wondered how any resistant trees will then cope with the Emerald Ash Borer. John Stokes also attended the DEFRA meeting and raised the issue of the scenario of large scale felling of ash by Councils who are concerned with liability should an ash fall and may consider it cheaper to fell before trouble strikes. This was also a problem on railway land.

Sycamore was mooted as an alternative to ash but Forest Research have published a more encouraging list of alternatives and also a very useful calendar of things to look at during the year to help us identify tree disease. Details of all the above mentioned sites will be on our website.

The meeting concluded with us looking at examples of burrs bought in by Robert and Anne and at twig samples for ID practice.

Robert Maidstone gave an engaging insight into galls and cankers with samples he had collected.

Date of next meeting will be announced. The meeting finished at 9.00 pm

Sarah Barney - secretary