

South Norfolk Tree Warden Forum Executive Committee meeting held at SNDC, Long Stratton on Tuesday 1st November. 6.00 -7.00

Present: Henry Gowman, Steve Dowall, Roma Beardsall, Chris Brooke, Sarah Barney and Helen Sibely (Assets Manager, SNDC)

Henry confirmed that Mike Hall has resigned from the committee for personal reasons. His contribution has been greatly appreciated. Henry is to make contact with Jim Riley.

Finance: Steve gave a brief oral report. After some expenditure on a stainless steel planting spade worthy of ceremonial plantings and the purchase of the 25th anniversary tree the balance is a healthy £8,272.

Tree Warden Conference: This was judged by attendees to have been a great success and South Norfolk can be pleased that in our first year of operation we were able to host this event. All who helped were thanked with a special mention to Roma who organised the overspill parking.

Tree orders: SNDC has let us have the use of a garage for the delivery and collection of tree orders. This will be only be open in office hours. The orders will be pre-sorted into individual Parish orders.

Planting schemes. Eight schemes from five parishes were outlined.

Badges: It was agreed that badges would be ordered. They will have a space for wardens to enter their names. It was also agreed that sticky labels would be used to help us all remember names at general meetings.

UK grown trees: Henry introduced the idea of South Norfolk Forum campaigning for the growing and distribution of British grown young trees to combat the spread of tree disease. This will be put to the members at the general meeting and feedback will later be sought.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th January. 6.00pm committee meeting and 7.00 general meeting.

South Norfolk Tree Warden Forum meeting held at SNDC, Long Stratton on Tuesday 1st November. 7.00 -8.00.

Apologies: Sarah Long, Anne Edwards, Mike Brett, Tim Ridgely, Pauline Wiliamson, Libby Searle, Steve Cox, Chris Popplewell. Shaun Button

Present: Henry Gowman, Steve Dowall, Roma Beardsall, Chris Brooke, Sarah Barney and Helen Sibley (Assets Manager, SNDC) Peter Aspinall, John Crowfoot, Robert Maidstone, Colin Ward, Raz Woollacott, Cathy Terry, Michael Matthews, Peter Jaques,

Helen Sibley the Assets Manager from SNDC was introduced and talked about her role. She is the person to contact if Tree Wardens have any concerns about individual trees and said she considered Tree Wardens to be the 'eyes and ears' of South Norfolk on tree matters and really appreciated our work. Steve put the 'Interactive Highways' Map on the screen and Helen showed us how to identify the responsible body for a particular tree. SNDC land, highways (NCC) and private land was shown and trees with TPs were identified and all background information given. Helen's contact details and easy to follow instructions on how to navigate the map will be on our website. Helen has a background in conservation and ecology and would like to come to more of our meetings. Henry gave a plug for our website and urged all to use it frequently as it was regularly updated and it is very informative. We can all submit material to Steve.

Open Forum

Should sycamore replace ash? This question came up at the Conference and members had a chance to air their views. All were greatly concerned that sycamore might be considered a replacement tree. Field maple was suggested as an alternative and also the Service tree. Robert wondered if the sycamore was also in trouble as he had seen very few fruits over the last two years but in other parishes they were fruiting well. Henry showed some photos of trees with Ash dieback and passed around an Ash branch with early symptoms of disease on the leaves.

Hedge maintenance.

The flailing of hedgerows was discussed with much concern expressed especially for overwintering butterfly and moth eggs but with some understanding for farmers who have to work within a very narrow time frame. One suggestion was that farmers be encouraged to cut alternate sides. Natural England who manage the farm payments will have advice for landowners on this subject.

Home grown seeds/trees:

This was introduced to the members as perhaps a campaign that we could promote. Members were asked to think about this for discussion at a future meeting.

Henry then gave a report on the Weird and Wonderful Wood event he had been to in Stowmarket this year and recommended it to members. He also told us about a wood working course he had been on and we saw pictures of a very fine, rustic chair he had made.

The meeting closed at 8.00p.m. **Date of next meeting Wednesday 18th January 7.00 SNDC**