

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 11th May 2019

South Norfolk Tree Warden Network

Poringland Community Centre

Welcome and apologies:

Apologies were received from Joe Durrell, Cathy Terry, Pauline Williamson and Juliet Henderson, Phil Grimes and Steve Dowall.

Apart from 16 of our own Tree Wardens, we welcomed Jon Stokes from The Tree Council – John Fleetwood of Broadland Tree Wardens/East Anglian Co-ordinator for The Tree Council and Geraldine Creaven

Henry Gowman explained how SNTWN was placed and that we are still a vibrant and successful group having achieved a great deal since we set up as an independent group, having jointly planted more than 5,000 trees over the last two years. He made specific mention of the projects being carried out by Pauline Williamson, Cathy Terry and Richard Beese, all of whom are engaged in community projects. He also explained that a generous grant has been received from Busseys of Norwich.

However, primarily owing to his own ill health, combined with a number of people being obliged to stand down from the committee for personal reasons, this past year had been difficult and a decision needed to be made as to how the Network was to continue. If we remained as an independent network then a new committee was needed and tasks spread across the committee members to lessen the burden on any one person.

A general discussion was held as to the future course, which involved considering whether the Network stayed intact and operated as it does at the moment, that SNTW disband or, that it merges with Broadland Tree Wardens group.

A decision was made that SNTWN will continue with a strengthened committee and instead of there being a Chair, there would be a Coordinator. The following Tree Wardens were voted en bloc onto the Committee:

Anne Edwards Heathersett - Roma Beardsell Brooke - Sarah Barney Colney -
Richard Beese Cringleford - Steve Dowall Poringland - Phil Grimes Hales and
Heckingham - Robert Hosea Forncett - Joe Darrel Tacolneston - Raz Wollacott
Shotesham - Andrew Goodman Dickleborough and Rushall - Henry Gowman Poringland

A report from our outgoing Treasurer Steve Dowall, concluded that we are in a sound financial position. Over the past 2 years of operation, we have spent £350 on insurance and £250 on membership of The Tree Council, with other smaller sums being spent on room hire/refreshments, website charges and purchase of identity badges. We spent the vast majority of our £5K on planting some 5,000 trees.

John Stokes of The Tree Council gave an illustrated talk on Government plans to make new forests throughout the UK. It is likely that there will also be urban planting schemes which could involve Tree Wardens.

Dr Anne Edwards a Tree Warden for Hethersett and a scientist at The John Innes Institute, gave an illustrated talk on a bacterial pathogen named Xylella fastidiosa or Sudden Olive Death, which is wiping out centuries old Olive groves across the toe of Italy at a cost of millions of pounds to the economy. There is no cure for this epidemic and it is already moving to other parts of Italy. It was recently found in Germany, where all the trees and plants in a plant nursery and the surrounding area were destroyed (at a huge cost) to eradicate the virus. The virus is spread by all kinds of leaf suckers or spittle beetles and effects a wide range of trees including Oaks. It is believed that the virus was imported by infected plant stock from South America where plants and trees have natural defences to it.

NB Later information: This action of eradication proved successful in Germany but similar projects have been halted in Italy by a peculiar mix of environmentalists and owners of ancient olive groves who are running a programme calling the disease 'fake news'. The scientific community are furious at the Italian government for dithering and seemingly half believing the protestors. This virus is quite capable of wiping out every Olive grove which would be disastrous for the Italian economy as well as those of the whole Mediterranean area.

John Fleetwood explained his voluntary role as Tree Council Coordinator for East Anglia. He was currently engaged in establishing just how many active Tree Warden groups there are and how many members they have, as the records are very out of date.

The meeting closed at 1230.

Henry Gowman

Tree Warden for Poringland and SNTWN Committee Member

SNTWN Treasurer Report 2019

Attached to this report is a Financial Statement from when we started the network up to the present day.

From the outset we set out to spend our generous donations from Busseys on tree planting and apart from some necessary ancillary costs - that is what we have done.

Apart from tree planting our major annual costs are Insurance c £350 pa and Tree Council membership £250 pa

Minor costs of room hire & refreshments, website & the purchase of TW Badges makes up the rest.

And the good news is we have planted c5,000 trees at a cost of £5,120

As you know our committee has been somewhat depleted recently and so I have been acting as treasurer as well as other functions. I shall be relinquishing my treasurer duties this year but thanks to the generosity of Busseys will be handing over a healthy bank balance to my successor.

Steve Dowall
SNTWN Treasurer