

North Norfolk Community Woodland Trust

Pigneys board 29.03.11

Minutes of Director Trustees on Wednesday 29th March 2012 at the Methodist Chapel School
Room, Knapton

Present

Brian Abbs (BA), Edward de Feyter (EdeF) David Gosling (DG), Peter Kaye (PK), Neil Stubbs (NST) Nick Sutherland (NS) (Chair of Meeting); Mike Wright (MW)

Apologies

None

No Show

Don Birch;

1 Minutes of Director/Trustees Meeting held on 26th January 2012

1.1 The **Minutes** had been circulated before the meeting and were approved by all and signed by NS after correcting the £ figure on 4.2 to £100

1.2 **Certificates to retiring Trustees** Prepared by PK on behalf of the Board of Trustee/Directors for signature by the Chairman, for presentation to 'Pip' Thomas, Charles Utting and David Ross in recognition of their services to the Trust.

1.3 The **format of the meeting** was based on a review of the January meeting minutes and establishing progress etc on all items discussed then and recorded in those Minutes, as well as reviewing anything else arising since that meeting

2 Canal Company Plans

2.1 DG had circulated a note on his meeting on 30th January with L Ashton the Owner of the Canal as it passed Pigneys. He noted that the issues for Pigneys reported at the last Minutes remained. Mr Ashton is determined to reinstate a 30ft Canal stream banked by two 30ft towpaths, the Northern one carries an NCC Footpath and will be maintained by the Canal Company, the other will be closed To public access. He is single-minded and not prepared to consider alternatives, although it is understood that he is facing some injunctions from statutory bodies.

2.2 The situation for the Trust has since been discussed by BA & DG with NNDC, NCC re footpaths and Norfolk Wildlife Trust and will continue to be monitored. BA has been informed that any threat to protected wildlife (eg Water Voles) is a Criminal offence which should be reported to the Police in the first instance.

3 Discussions with Norfolk Wildlife Trust ("NWT") and Natural England

Two very positive meetings have been held with NWT; the latter with Natural England. Matters discussed included the possible grant aided conversion of part of the Dog Leg Field to natural heathland which is already in some evidence in this area and the preparation of a whole site management plan for the whole Pigneys estate . More formal proposals are awaited from both bodies

4 Grants

4.1 **Community Spaces--Sustainability Grant**—DG reported that this element is now complete and the final report had been submitted, accepted and paid with a final spend of £3,293 against a grant of £3,500. This aspect of the Grant had undoubtedly been "good for Pigneys" He noted that some elements needed a small input for completion as soon as possible -eg (a) Fixing of Tree Identification Tags (BA); (b) Printing of identification numbers list (c) Walk Leadership Notes—[since completed] (c) Listing of main trees in Wood and uses for timber—for website(BA)

4.2 **Wetland Grant** (via A4A) . This is virtually complete and the final report is to be submitted by DG to the Lottery very shortly. All agreed that this had been a very successful and iconic project, attracting universal approval from users and others. The final item has been orders for waterside and water plants for which non specific orders have been placed with two local suppliers; such plants clearly cannot be delivered until the summer

4.3 **Community Spaces**—The Trust has been invited to apply for a further Community Spaces Grant entitled "Supporting Change" with an apparently high chance of success. After discussion it was agreed to pursue this with two themes— (a) The professional production of a whole site Management Plan (b) the Development of a schools/ young persons strategy and associated cost contribution by Pigneys

5 School visits

It was agreed to try to increase these during the summer term making use of the Tree ID Project and the Dipping Platform. The latter is currently under water and may need "jacking up" to be usable; this results from a raising of water levels through the wetland project, which had only been undertaken after the platform was in place

6 Other Items

6.1 Ladder—noted that a 2x 10ft sections ladder was still needed.

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6.2 Ashes Disposal --the request by a local person, whose family had lived at Stone Cottage was accepted as was the associated request to plant a memorial tree was accepted subject to the Trust selecting site and type. DG will respond to the requests

6.3 Sponsorship—Noted that £240.00 had been raised to date from 3 businesses: thanks go to PK who has also approached further businesses.

6.4 Vandalism—Disappointing and recurring damage has been incurred on the reed panelling in the Barn. The Police have been informed.

6.5 Sightings Board—Noted that one has been put on the reverse of the main Notice Board

6.6 Water Containers—Noted that two had been sunk alongside the Dog Leg Orchard area but that they represented a safety hazard. BA will deal with this

6.7 NND C Tree Officer—S Case had visited at our request to look whether the cultivation by our neighbour so close to the big boundary oaks was a danger to their survival. He considered that the practice carried no risk to the tree. He also advised that we could and should carry out our own formal, visual tree inspection, making full comments and identifying what was seen and what action was to be taken (including, if appropriate, none). He had advised that only large trees which overhang normal walking routes need to be logged

6.8 Family Open Day—to be on the Agenda for next meeting

7. **Finance**

7.1 Bank Transactions—DG circulated schedules showing all transactions for the financial year to date. These showed a current balance of £3,517, of which £3,200 was in respect of free reserves

7.2 Name on Bank Account- DG reminded Trustees that the name on the Bank Statement was the formal name “North Walsham Community Woodland Trust” and not Pigneys Wood. The Bank will reject cheques made out “Pigneys Wood”

8. Next Meeting

Wednesday 30th May 2012, at Knapton Methodist Church-7pm.—note date change

Signed as approved

Date