

North Norfolk Community Woodland Trust

Pigneys board 30.11.11

Minutes of Director Trustees on Wednesday 26th January 2012 at the Methodist Chapel
School Room, Knapton

Present

Brian Abbs (BA), David Gosling (DG), Peter Kaye (PK), Nick Sutherland (NS) (Chair of Meeting); Mike Wright (MW)

Apologies

Edward de Feyter; Neil Stubbs

No Show

Don Birch;

1 Minutes of Director/Trustees Meeting held on 30th November 2011

1.1 The **Minutes** had been circulated before the meeting and were approved by all and signed by NS.

1.2 **Certificates to retiring Trustees** PK will ask S&R to produce "long service" certificates for Pip Thomas, Charles Utting and David Ross.

1.3 The **format of the meeting** was based on a review of the November 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 Grants

2.1 **Sustainability Grant** –The Lottery had agreed to the re-statement of the Training element of the Grant. DG had produced a schedule to analyse the separate items involved. This was agreed by all and it was noted that all spend had to be completed and claimed from the Lottery by the end of March. This involved BA receiving £200 for the tree identification work involved and DG £50 for producing a walk leader's manual. Both sums were agreed by the Board as reasonable and awarded based on the expertise areas of the Trustees involved. All other elements of the Grant were complete

2.2 **Wetland Grant** – The Lottery had not allowed any remedial work on paths etc to be postponed until the autumn and all claims had to be in by mid April. BA will hire one day (?plus) from Dominic and obtain & erect deep water warning signs in various places. He will arrange any other necessary work within the timescale.

3 Woodland Management

3.1 **Working Parties** Recent work had concentrated on tidying the car park by removing "vegetation creep" around the edges. This has also created a tidier look. Some cut timber lengths had also been moved to the hide area to enable this work to proceed

It was agreed to use the next Saturday to walk the paths to identify trees which would have a numbered tag as part of the "Tree Identification Trail" to be established as a learning aid (for all ages) under 2.1 above

3.2 **Tree Register.** No progress [**note:** Following the meeting, PK had been able to persuade NNDC to part with the OS version of the map showing the Wood] Trustees can now carry out a condition inspection, possibly assisted by Simon Case-NNDC- and re-mark positions on the map] .

3.3 **Sycamore Coppicing** – BA reported that this had had to be postponed, since the unseasonal weather had brought the bluebells on unusually early. The projected coppicing will still be let to M Kirby from the Autumn. He intends to do limited felling of sycamore for the next few weeks in the old wood where emerging bluebells allow

3.4 **Viewing Platforms** –BA to progress the completion of this or the spending of the £525 donation. No progress yet on a possible second observation structure near the Railway Wood

4 Finance

4.1 **Accounts:** DG circulated schedules showing all income and costs for the financial year starting 1st September 2011. These showed a General Fund balance of £2878 and expenditure and recoveries on both Lottery Grants

4.2 **Fundraising:** It was noted with thanks that Hansells had sponsored the website for £500; other local businesses connected with Pigneys will be approached. Only one business per sector should be asked. DG will approach Sexty's and mentioned NFU Mutual (Insurance)

4.3 **Local Giving:** £59 on 2 donations (less costs) have been received so far—the Gift Aid element is awaited.

4.4 The **Family Open Day** suggested at the last meeting was re-considered and it was agreed that we should go for one or more modest events each year to raise some money **and show the Wood** off to local people. Some refreshments could

be provided; we could offer dipping and Tree Identification. Donations can be requested

5 New Canal Company

DG reported that the owner of Bacton Wood Mill had acquired the upper part of the NW & Dilham canal (from Ebridge to Swafield) and appeared to be determined to restore it fully to its original lines and widths. Apart from short term disruption there are various direct problems for Pigney:-

- Removing the existing bridges (near Water Sports Centre and at the old Railway line). This will completely eliminate the published circular walk from the Town.
- Expanding the Canal width and associated dredging of ditches—elimination of Water Voles and other flora & fauna; at least in the short term

DG has arranged that he and BA will meet him at the Wood on the following day to understand his plans and explain our issues

6 Other

4.1 **Items to be addressed/ dealt with ASAP:-**

(i) **Management Plan** –Still needed

Action PK/BA

4.2 (ii) **Replacement of faded roundels**—Wait for outcome of meeting with Canal Owner-- discussed later

4.3 **Recruitment of Trustees**—PK to ask Vince to clarify his wishes **Action PK**

4.4 **Soakaway Licence**- No progress

Action NS

4.5 **Insurance Renewal** –DG Noted that NFU Mutual had responded to his query with a premium reduction but the overall increase was still 20%

4.6 **Long sectional ladder** still needed by the Trust

4.7 **Andrina Walmesley** from Norfolk Wildlife Trust is visiting at our request, partly for the awareness of NWT and partly to give us advice/ suggestions. BA & Dg are attending—others welcome

7 Next Meeting

Thursday 29th **March 2012**, at Knapton Methodist Church-7pm.

Signed as approved

Date