

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

Founded in December 1894



Meeting of the Amenities, Open Spaces and Environment Committee Wednesday 12th January 2022 At Singleton Village Hall, starting At 17.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Gathern, P Barker and Wiffen
Also Present: Aniko Szocs (Clerk)

The meeting started at 17.30 pm.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Gathern (Item 4)

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Amenities and Open Spaces and Environment Committee meeting held on 10th November 2021 were duly approved.

Proposed: Cllr P Barker	Seconded: Cllr Wiffen	In Favour: 3
Vote against: 0	Vote Abstain: 0	Motion carried

4. Allotments

Members of the parish council conducted a Winter allotment inspection and reported no concerns. The rubbish from the site now has been cleared and all plot holders were reminded to take their rubbish home.

The committee discussed the possibility to expand the allotment sites, and two possible options were considered. One option is extending the current site and the other option is to create a new site near the playing fields. The first option would require changing the current PROW that runs adjacent to the allotment. The clerk to investigate the exact route.

While the environment area hasn't progressed as hoped there are two beehives on site now.

5. Management Plan for Buxford Meadow

There is nothing to report, no plan received to date.

6. Green Bus rooftops

The committee reviewed the possibility to install green roofs on bus shelters. While these installations would require minimal maintenance the upfront cost is too high versus the benefit it would provide for bees and other pollinators.

7. Meadow Creation

This is an ongoing project and details of the way forward are being drawn up.

8. Bumblebee Conservation Trust- Buzzing Communities

Cllr Gathern and the clerk met with Dr Nikki Gammons and Trainee Clare Alley. The meeting was very positive and a plan to carry out a walkabout was agreed. The Clerk to produce a map showing all parish council owned land. This will help Dr Gammons identify areas for creating bee and pollinator friendly sites. A good source of areas includes the playing fields, road verges, churchyards and parish owned land. It takes time to establish an area, but the ongoing management of the area is relatively straightforward. In addition, planters and sensory gardens can be created. The latter would offer the visitors to smell and feel plants This would provide a good opportunity to work with local groups. Groups and organisations could take on a planter to maintain. A sign informing the purpose of the area would be displayed so residents/visitors are aware these are bee friendly planters.

Cllr Gathern also reported that she attended an event organised by Kent Plan Bee in collaboration with Pesticides Action Network highlighting the damage pesticides can cause to wildlife and humans. There is a shift to move away from using pesticides for weed control and new alternative forms are emerging. For this move to be effective a Plant Management Plan will need to be in place. Guest speakers recommended going pesticide free in stages, involving all local community groups. At the event rodenticides were highlighted and the dangers they can cause to wildlife. Rodenticides heavily contributed towards the barn owls' decline. It is important to work with other bodies, for example, schools, borough, and county councils. The clerk to contact ABC and KCC regarding rodenticides usage.

9. Street Trees

The Woodland Trust's is running a project called Street Trees. The project is promoting Street Trees and the benefits they provide not only for the wildlife but for us, humans too. The committee agreed upon the installation of a Tree trail in the parish. The proposal is to have different routes to cover different areas of the parish with an information board displayed by a tree. The trail routes would take on residents to explore the parish and at the same time to learn about the local environment.

10. Items for information or Agenda for next meeting

In addition to the regular items, the following will also be discussed at the next meeting:

- Tree trail, to draft routes and receiving information on signs
- Meadow creation (to receive planters costing)

11. Date and venue of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, 09th March 2022 starting at 17.30 pm at Singleton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 19.15 pm