



**Meeting of the Environment Committee  
Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Singleton Village Hall, Parish Office  
starting at 4.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Peter Barker, Dave Gathern, Barry Mercer and Malcolm Wiffen

**Also Present:** Aniko Szocs (Clerk), Parish Steward

The meeting started at 16:30 pm.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Herring (did not receive invite), Cllr Sally Gathern (ABC)

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were duly approved.

|                              |                               |                       |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Proposed: Cllr Wiffen</b> | <b>Seconded: Cllr Gathern</b> | <b>In Favour: 4</b>   |
| <b>Vote against: 0</b>       | <b>Vote Abstain: 0</b>        | <b>Motion carried</b> |

**4. Parish Steward**

The Parish Steward has been introduced and welcomed by the committee. Cllrs have offered help and support while settling in the role. The steward has been invited to the meeting as the role overlaps with some of the objectives of the committee. The steward has mentioned that he would like to create more wildflower areas, Great Chart Playing Fields have similar aspirations, this could be a joint project.

**5. Allotments**

An inspection is due, and a date will be arranged for some time in June. A short discussion took place whether to use a scoring system. It was noted that scoring each allotment works better. It was also noted that the inspection should be completed by a third party like the parish council. Issues of flooding at the lower area of the allotments have been noted.

**6. Heron Walk Community Garden**

The area has been strimmed and a layer of cardboard and compost laid to stop the weed growing through. It was suggested to carry out another consultation with the residents and arrange a planting day.

## **7. Tree Trail**

Cllr P Barker and the Parish Steward walked the length of the proposed tree route which took over an hour and a half. The information board can be installed in most places to existing fixings, however, there are areas where permission will need to be sought. Once the trail is in situ a map will be created and shared and an unveiling event be held. The committee agreed to aim to complete the tree trail by end of June 2024.

## **8. Singleton Lake & Buxford Meadow**

Friends of Singleton Lake will be holding their AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 starting at 8.00 pm. The steward has walked around with Aspire and agreed to keep the path accessible and open up areas that currently has an obstructed view from the benches. It was noted that Aspire has been very helpful with ground maintenance related issues.

## **9. Ashford Community Woodland**

The clerk confirmed a bid for fruit trees has been successful. The trees can be added to the existing orchard, or a new orchard can be created, if the latter option a location will need to be agreed.

## **10. Bee Project**

The seeds the grant funded has arrived, these will be planted in December. The Steward to look into of potential areas for bee boxes.

## **11. Gardening Competition**

The committee requested to include the Garden competition in the next Parish Council newsletter, along with the agreed categories. It will allow time for residents to start plan and think about their entries. The committee agreed to formalise the rules and guidelines from September.

## **12. Items for information or agenda for next meeting**

- Allotment
- Heron Walk Community Garden Project
- Singleton Lake and Buxford Meadow
- Tree Trail
- Bee project- Singleton West
- Gardening Competition- Best Front Garden
- Tree Report

## **13. Date and venue of next meeting.**

The date of the next scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 starting at 4.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 17.40 pm.