

## Trees for Heckington

### Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in the Show Office

**\*\* please note that since the meeting unforeseen circumstances , the date and the venue for the Launch Meeting has been changed to Wednesday February 12<sup>th</sup> in the Playing Fields Pavilion**

1. Present: Tim Grigg, Andy Mallet Brown, Dawn Phillips, Mary Cummins, Pat Line, Ian Farmer, , Lesley Pinchbeck.

Guest: Coun. Mrs Jan Palmer Chairman of the Parish Council.

2. Apologies for absence: Shirley Garlick, Sue Tucker, Marilyn Scholefield. John Kasperczyk, Karen Hill and Marianne Jackson

Tim welcomed Jan Palmer to the meeting. She thanked him and said she was glad to be able to come and meet the Group.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of 04.01.20: approved unanimously with deletion of Pat Line's duplicated name in the attendance record.

4. Matters arising from the Meeting of 04.01.20 not on the agenda: none.

5. **Tree planting this season** TG stressed his determination, that as agreed at the previous meeting, there should be an inaugural planting by the Spring. Two sites were focussed on:-

i) Laxton Close/the Path from Laxton Close to the Junction of Burton Rd & Sleaford Rd

ii) The land opposite the junction of Beech Close with Godson Avenue

There followed a far reaching discussion on suitable species and how we might obtain these. It was unanimously agreed that we would work on the basis of indigenous species, suitable for the sites.

In response to the enthusiasm of the Group to move on quickly with this first symbolic planting Coun Mrs Palmer assured the Group that the Parish Council had supported plantings for years and in fact had initiated many of their own. She described some of these to the Group. It was in this context that she went on to explain, that there were constraints to be considered, and checks to be made before planting could go ahead. These ranged from concerns of the effects of the trees on local residents using the paths or whose properties bordered the areas to be planted, to the constraints of any covenants placed on the sites and the requirements of Public Utilities. Coun Mrs Palmer promised to have any constraints on these two sites checked and it was agreed to have a site meeting on Friday 31.01.20 at 10.00am to meet at the Godson Avenue/Beech Close site. As many members of the Group as were available would accompany TG. All aspects of these plantings would then be appropriately progressed.

The remains of a very large old Elder bush close to the Laxton Close path, left by contractors, when clearing the site for the Parish Council was particularly noted as a matter of concern, by Coun. Palmer.

**Arrangements for the Village Open Meeting:** - IF reported that Adrian Isaacs had given two available dates February 14<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup>. The Village Hall was available on both dates, but had highlighted that 14<sup>th</sup> was Valentine's Day. After some discussion it was decided to avoid the 14<sup>th</sup> and go for the 28<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed to start the meeting at 7.00 pm. Adrian Isaacs would speak for 30 mins and take questions. TG who would be in the Chair would then speak about his vision of developing woodland for the Community in Heckington. Following his introduction TG would invite questions and suggestions from the floor and would also ask people to leave an expression of interest and contact details on the flyers, which would be available. Publicity of the event would be mainly via Face book TG, A M-B to organise.

TG had contacted the Woodland Trust but they did not speak at meetings of this sort, especially as they had no saplings to give to community projects. LP had contacted Pat Banister about photographs of historic Tree Plantings from the Village Trust archives, he would see what he could do, but explained that the ill health of himself and his wife meant that his day to day time was limited.

6. Further Ideas regarding development of a Community Wood TG introduced the topic and PL opened up the Plan Of the Village Tree Survey, which he had been responsible for carrying out in 2002. This triggered a wide and far reaching discussion, from visionary ideas to more specific suggestions all tempered with practicalities, every member of the Group contributing comments. It was obvious that we would need a much longer time to organise our thoughts and identify possible ways forward. It was agreed to have the subject as a major item on a future agenda.
  
7. Management of Existing Woodland It was obvious we would need to develop a sustainable plan for the ongoing management and care of new planting and existing trees in the village. Coun Palmer made it clear this was a matter of concern for the Parish Council, and indicated that the Council would be interested to work with us on such a Management Plan. Again this was a matter for a future agenda.
  
8. The next meeting on Tuesday 04.02.20 at 7.00 would focus i) completion of the arrangements for the Public Meeting ii) Moving forward the plans for the Inaugural Planting

There being no other business TG closed the meeting.

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Lesley Pinchbeck

30.01.20