

HAUGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Virtual Bio-Diversity & Wildlife Conservation Committee Meeting held on

Tuesday 12 January 2021 via VIDEOCONFERENCING

Present (by Video):	Gerald Brown, David Evans, Rachel Eburne, Gavin Deans, Jo Ling and Mrs. C Pizzey (Clerk)
1.	To receive and consider apologies for absence: None.
2.	To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest: None.
3.	To receive any written requests for dispensations: None received.
4.	To note and approve the minutes of the Meeting of 24th November 2020 (as circulated) and to agree that delegated authority be given to the Chair to sign the minutes outside of the meeting: It was agreed that the minutes could be signed.
5.	Public Forum: Rachel Eburne reported on a hedge that had been taken out following the erection of a new property on the edge of The Cricket. Mark Madgwick advised that the resident has agreed to plant a new hedge.
6.	To consider draft proposals to consult Parishioners on biodiversity and wildlife conservation within the Parish: The members discussed the proposal and minor changes were made. The Chairman reported that due to the restriction in place during the current lockdown the committee would be unable to distribute the questionnaires to the residents. It was agreed to look at an on-line survey in order for the consultation to start. The Clerk and Jo Ling to investigate. Posters to advertise the consultation to be placed on the parish notice boards with an option to use a paper response available via post office.

Signed Chairman:

Date:

7.	<p>To consider draft proposals for a publicity article in the Wetherden and Haughley Parish News: The Chairman reported that the W&HPN will only be operating an on-line edition for February. It was agreed to look at using Facebook, the village website and other social media platform to inform the residents of the consultation.</p>
8.	<p>To receive an update on proposed conservation area off Fishponds Way: The Clerk reported that no response had been received from the developers at Fishponds Way despite numerous emails being sent. Rachel Eburne agreed to try and contact the developers as District Councillor. The Clerk to forward on the details.</p>
9.	<p>To consider further grass cutting proposals: The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had considered the grass cutting proposal and they had asked that investigation is made into the working capital of purchasing the grass cutter and consider the cost of insurance, training, health and safety, maintenance and repair of the equipment and a further report is submitted to the council.</p>
10.	<p>To consider proposals from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Mapping to identify where wildlife corridors need to be established or improved to link up sites and II. Areas to plant more trees and hedgerows in order to encourage more wildlife: <p>The Chairman reported that both Babergh and MSDC councils are looking into mapping wildlife areas including additional grass cutting. This includes wildlife, hedges, green burial sites and planning within a Bio-diversity campaign. The Parish Council asked that this proposal should be considered by the B&WC committee.</p> <p>Rachel Eburne advised that herself, Keith Welham or the Public Realm Department could be contacted with any ideas once they have been agreed by the Parish Council.</p> <p>It was agreed that Rachel Eburne would contact MSDC to enquire if an area at Fishponds way could be considered and what the process is. Gavin Deans to look at areas within the parish and list their suitability for the campaign.</p>

Signed Chairman:

Date:

11.	<p>To consider the SCC strategy to deliver the biodiversity motion agreed at Full Council on the 3rd December and how this may affect the Parish of Haughley. <i>“This motion will ensure: Delivery of an SCC biodiversity strategy, Assessment of how SCC can lead partner organisations in this field, Adoption of biodiverse land management options on SCC land and A letter to the Secretary of State calling for a clear and ambitious national biodiversity strategy”</i>: The Chairman reported that he had considered the motion and felt that this would be difficult to carry out from a Parish Council level. David Evans felt that the committee could look at item 3 of the motion and identify areas suitable in the Parish. It was agreed to encourage land owners to ask them to consider improving the bio-diversity on their land under the Environmental Land Management scheme, the cornerstone of the government’s new agricultural policy (published 14 October 2020). Gavin Deans asked that the Committee finds out if there is money available before time is spent on proposing sites for the campaign. It was agreed to write to Andrew Stinger.</p>
12.	<p>Any other business: David Evans asked after the community orchard at the Allotments. A recommendation was made to accept David Evans offer to prune the trees.</p> <p>It was reported that two items of play equipment at The Cricket had been repaired.</p>
13.	<p>Date of next meeting: It was agreed that meetings would be held on the second Tuesday of the month, bi-monthly starting on Tuesday 9th March 2020.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 19.55</p>

Signed Chairman:

Date: