

HAUGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Gallowfield Wood Committee Meeting held on

Thursday 22nd April 2021 via VIDEOCONFERENCING

Present (by Video):	Gerald Brown (chairman), David Evans, Bill Green, Geoffrey Kay, Jo Ling, Richard Stacey, Terry Stopher, Judy Thomson and Denise Winder Guest: Gary Battell, SCC Woodland Advisor.
1.	To receive and consider apologies for absence. Heidi Franklin, Lyndsey Harvey. Bill Green left part way through the meeting. The committee consented to these apologies.
2.	To receive declarations of Interest in any item on the Agenda None
3.	To consider written requests for any dispensations relating to disclosable interest Not applicable
4.	To agree a person to take the minutes. Gerald Brown
5.	To consider and approve the minutes of the Gallowfield Wood meeting of 3rd March 2021 (as circulated) and to agree that delegated authority be given to the Chair to sign the minutes outside of the meeting: Committee members confirmed receipt of the minutes of the last meeting and authorised the Chairman to sign the minutes outside the meeting.
6.	Consider further the report from Jo Ling on her meeting with Gary Battell – previously circulated and attached. The Chairman gave a brief resume of past woodland management, including establishment of the wood by SCC in about 1987/88, initial management proposals and aims, 2012 management plan, woodland thinning 2011/2012 and 2017/2018. Jo Ling identified that the draft management plan dated January 2021 was in accord with the aims and objectives set out in previous management plans, including the production of timber for sale.

Signed

Date

7.	<p>To note and reconsider a previous Small Woodland Management Plan dated February 2012 (attached).</p> <p>Noted. Agreed to move to next agenda item.</p>	
8.	<p>To receive and consider a report from Gary Battell - Suffolk County Council Woodland Advisor.</p> <p>Impressed with aims proposed management plan and understands the vision and objectives identified. Impressed with the management group; it is a well-managed wood. Next thinning recommended for 2024/25.</p> <p>Steps of management included first and second thinnings and removal of dead, dying and decayed timber. Recommended start to introduce further diversity to encourage larger trees, coppice, standards and maiden trees. The arboreta are special and precious elements; recommended keeping them as arboreta, keeping den building away from arboreta and some replanting with native Suffolk species. Pegs/labelling of compartments and trees species would be beneficial for educational use and visitors. Some work could be done with volunteers but it would help to engage others such as trainee woodsmen and competent contractors. Consider ride widening, additional green areas, enhancing biodiversity. Recommended obtaining felling licence with competent advice. Management plan is good practice, aids tree felling licence application and needed for grant funding. Expected cost for management plan say £450 to £500 (as per quote received) – possibly less with committee input. Consider as £45 to £50 per year of felling licence. Consider Countryside Stewardship Scheme and projected Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) for grant funding.</p> <p>SCC creating Healing Woods from new and existing woodland and would like to include GFW; application form of SCC website. G. Battell willing to support GFW committee even when retired. Discussed range of management items. Keep main areas to native Suffolk trees keeping others to other side of car park. Considered aspects of a PowerPoint presentation which was made available for circulation to the committee.</p> <p>The committee thanks Gary Battell for his very helpful input and suggestions.</p>	
9.	<p>To consider and if thought appropriate commission a specialist person or company to advise on updating the Gallowsfield Wood management plan, including identifying area for thinning, removed of dead or diseased trees.</p>	

Signed

Date

	<p>Fee quotation received from Hardy Woodlands and Forestry (attached)</p> <p>Should also consider alternative specialist advisors.</p> <p>It was agreed to defer this item to the next committee meeting.</p>	
10.	<p>To consider the recommendation to submit an application for a Felling Licence and recommend, if thought appropriate, to suggest that the Parish Council appoints an Agent to draft and submit the application.</p> <p>It was agreed to defer this item to the next committee meeting.</p>	
11.	<p>To receive and consider the recommendations for the meadow areas as proposed by Jo Ling and David Evans</p> <p>This related to the meadow being part of Plashwood Estate. Recommended cutting end of July and towards end of year or very early to encourage longer grasses and flowers to spread, including encouraging spread of seeds. Possible hedgerow plants by GFW fence to encourage scrub, bramble etc.</p> <p>Discussed mixed height cutting to rides in wood and sides thereof say 5-15m, especially ride towards A14 and middle ride. Planting of Yellow discussed – possible tasks for working party.</p>	
12.	<p>To consider and if thought appropriate agree for two committee members to attend a Basic Tree Assessment course as recommended in the report from Jo Ling. Fee for a course of that name is £220 + VAT per trainee.</p> <p>The committee agreed the expenditure and for G Brown and H Franklin to attend the course; G Battell due to confirm the recommended course.</p>	
13.	<p>To consider the use of the composting closet</p> <p>The facility can be used for groups subject to being Covid compliant. It was agreed not to leave the closet open for general use as unable to be Covid compliant without active management.</p>	
14.	<p>Other business</p> <p>Commissioning repairs to picnic tables and seating, removing “glazing” to damaged notice board and use laminated notices; cleaning and treating of notice boards required; agreed to obtain quotes; G Kay agreed to obtain a quote from Simon.</p>	
16	<p>To confirm date for the next committee meeting Wednesday 19th May 2021 at 7pm at Gallowsfield Wood (Covid restrictions and weather permitting).</p>	

Signed

Date