

QTNWG: Meeting of trustees 13/04/2023
at 'By the Ford'

Attending: Kim Creswell (chair); Rowan Duffy; Emma Etherington (treasurer); Oakley Bond (guest).

Minutes

• **CENTRALISED LOG OF REPORTS POLLUTION/WILDLIFE CONCERNS AND ACTIONS/ OUTCOMES TAKEN:**

- On-going plan to collate evidence, as described in minutes 12/12/2022 and 13/02/23 **ACTION: KIM TO PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION;**

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• **MEMBERSHIP:**

- The group expressed disappointment that there had not been more uptake from locals, but pleased with the amount of interest further afield. Likelihood that uptake will improve as group becomes established and carries out community engagement activities (such as water monitoring and training). Continue with networking to attract membership and donations.
- All members should be written to with request to pay membership through Just Giving platform (see below). Request should be accompanied by a newsletter including actions and plans, **ACTION: ROWAN TO BEGIN TO DRAFT NEWSLETTER / COMPILE CONTENT; ROWAN TO COMPILE MEMBERSHIP LIST**

• **NETWORKING:**

- The highly informative meeting with YRT Lorne Thompson was attended by Kim, Emma and Laura. 16th February 2023 - Minutes are available.
- No one is available to partake in Earth Day invitation.
- Forthcoming events: Sandford Orcas Village Meeting: Saturday 15th April; Marnhull Green TEAMS Tuesday 18th April; Milborne Port CAN Thursday 27th April. **ACTION: KIM TO ATTEND ON BEHALF OF THE NWG**
- Kim has not yet responded to MP Chris Loder's request for further details of environmental concern. **ACTION: KIM TO RESPOND TO MP LODER WITH AN EVIDENCE BASED INSTRUCTION**

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• **FREQUENCY AND DATES FOR MEETINGS:**

- Following the open meeting on 23/3/23, the group felt that open meetings were no longer helpful as attendance had dropped away. Further to that, although the group welcomes all and is open to hearing diverse opinions, the consistent attendance of associates of local agro-chemical businesses was being disruptive without being constructive. It is felt that the dialogue with those people would be more constructive as a personal liaison with the group, rather than an open conversation. The group decided that regular member meetings would be more helpful. Members could bring friends and family, and prospective members could come. An annual open meeting would be held each September, on a Saturday morning, to aid inclusivity.
- **ACTION: KIM TO PENCIL IN DATES FOR MEMBERS MEETINGS AND SUBMIT TO GROUP FOR APPROVAL**

• **CHARITY STATUS:**

- Ongoing. **ACTION: EMMA AND KIM TO CONTINUE APPLICATION PROCESS**

• **BANKING:**

- Kim has set up a 'JustGiving' account so that the group can receive donations and membership fees. The Just Giving (JG) account is linked to the NWG e-mail account. Rowan has installed a link from the NWG website to the JG page. NWG needs to link a bank account to the JG page. It was agreed, if necessary, to use a trustees account for this until Emma has completed the Unity Trust application process. If it did transpire that an interim account was required no funds would be transferred from the JG page into that account unless in exceptional circumstances

and only then with the permission of all trustees minuted at an official trustees meeting. JG account now holds about £800 which can be used to set up the NWG cosignatory bank-account and then used to pay Xylem. **ACTION: EMMA AND KIM TO CONTINUE UNITY TRUST BANK APPLICATION PROCESS**

- **WATER TESTING EQUIPMENT:**

- Kim submitted a formal funding application to the Queen Thorne Parish Council (QTPC), which was declined on 6/3/23 on the grounds “It would not be good practice for the parish council to consider a funding application until the NWG has completed registration with the Charity Commission and has a two signatory bank account. Furthermore the parish council would have to be able to justify the expenditure to the auditor including how the funding will benefit the community. This means that we could not buy the equipment and donate it to you or donate the money to any other group to pass on to you.” The group are disappointed that the parish council have not been able to find a way to be supportive this time but hope they will do so in the future. Following the decision by the QTPC a private donation of £720 was made by a supporter who wishes to remain anonymous, which covers the cost of the filtrometer. NWG needs to raise a further £500 for reagents and associated equipment. **ACTION: CONTINUE FUND RAISING AND COLLECTING MEMBERSHIP FEES**

- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

- As described in “meetings” above, direct liaison with local farmers may be more helpful than open meetings. Other environmental groups have worked directly with farmers, with some success over many years. NWG could write directly to landowners such as Queen Thorne Agriculture and Pearce Seeds outlining concerns (particularly agricultural run off and destruction of breeding birds’ nests), asking for their opinions and what they are already doing as mitigation against potentially damaging practices, in order to reassure our members and shine a positive light on their industry. Ask if they would be interested in working with environmental groups (not necessarily us) to improve matters. **ACTION: KIM TO DRAFT LETTERS TO TIM RUTTER/ PEARCE SEEDS; PC CLLR PAUL HARRIS/QUEEN THORNE AGRICULTURE/SHERBORNE TURF/QUEEN THORNE LANDSCAPES; PC CLLR BORIS CHICK ; RICHARD HORSINGTON/ MANOR ESTATE FOR APPROVAL**
- QTPC: An official response should be made to QTPC, thanking them for considering our application, and including the following points: we are disappointed but we accept that they are constrained by rules and processes; that we are happy that the PC has declared a biodiversity emergency but we are concerned that their actions are not consistent with this (cite spraying of chemicals as suppressant minutes) - what are the PC doing to act accordingly with their statement?; we are concerned that the agrochemical companies in this parish may be exerting an undue influence on decision making at a local level and while everybody is entitled to have their views represented at parish meetings there are clear rules as to when Cllrs should excuse themselves (cite rules - cite minutes as example); NWG should be seen as a helpful addition to the community when tackling biodiversity loss as we offer a research and monitoring tool which is not available from statutory bodies and which local businesses do not seem to prioritise (cite PC minutes re EA testing and FOI request from EA) **ACTION: KIM TO DRAFT LETTER FOR APPROVAL**
- **TRUSTEES AGREE THAT PERSONAL NAMES SHOULD BE REDACTED WHEN PUBLISHING OUR LETTERS ON THE INTERNET, WITH LOCATIONS AND BUSINESS NAMES LEFT INTACT.**
- Parish Magazine: Rowan prepared a piece. Deadlines are 15th of the month. **ACTION: ROWAN TO FIND DATES OF FUTURE DEADLINES SO WE CAN PREPARE**
- **TRAINING DAYS:**
- Trustees’ training day with Angus Menzies is on Thursday 3rd June, Saturday, 9am-2.30pm. Angus has suggested that the trustees are trained and then he will come and do a day in our stream, with us, to train up more members. Angus has asked for pictures of possible stream

access points. We now have one space available on our training day. **ACTION: TRUSTEES TO OFFER SPARE PLACE; KIM TO SEND PICTURES TO ANGUS.**

• **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- NWG are sad that Laura Palmer has stepped back from her role of Trustee of NWG and thank her for the hard work and dedication she shared during the early days of the group. We wish her all the very best for the community work she is moving on to. Thank you Laura xxx
- **Queen Thorne Parish Council - Dates of Future Meetings:** 15 May in Nether Compton, 3 July in Trent, 4 September in Sandford Orcas, 6 November in Nether Compton. **ACTION: KIM TO ATTEND WITH UPDATES, ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WELCOME**