

Nature Watch Group (NWG) (Queen Thorne)
Meeting of Trustees

Minutes : Friday 30th May 2025

Location: via internet

Time: 8.30am-9.15am

Attending: Kim Creswell (chair), Emma Etherington (treasurer) and Rowan Duffy (administration and membership).



“To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in the parish of Queen Thorne in particular, but not exclusively, by undertaking research into the environment and its’ biodiversity, and disseminating the results for the benefit of the public.”

■ **Approval of minutes: 14th Feb 25 and extraordinary meeting 28th Feb 25**

Both minutes approved

ACTION: Rowan to add to website

■ **NWG Structure:**

Tax return

ACTION: Emma to complete, submit and send downloadable copy of submission to NWG e-mail.

CG expenses

CG has very kindly declined remuneration and has donated a significant amount of the chemistry equipment she has bought to support photometer testing to NWG. We are very grateful for her generosity.

ACTION: Kim to e-mail thanks from the NWG email

NWG balance

Following donations made from the organisation CAF and local resident SM, current balance stands at £941.08

ACTION: Kim to e-mail thanks from the NWG email

NWG website domain

Rowan and Emma have authorised payment of £12

■ **MEMBERS:**

Newsletter

NWG sent members newsletter using Mailchimp account on 01/03/25

ACTION: Rowan to see if it is possible to add newsletters to website.

Membership fees

NWG has not approached anyone for continuance of membership fees, and only one member has set up a standing order

ACTION: Kim to write wording for individualised request and send to Rowan to distribute along with new membership form which includes permission to claim Gift Aid, and a link to JG for ease of payment.

Public engagement with NWG

Rowan has started posting fun nature facts on IG

Rowan has designed a flyer template for general distribution

ACTION: Kim to polish and send to Rowan and Emma for approval. Flyers will be printed by Vista print

The trustees agree that profile will be raised when the hunt research survey becomes live.

■ NWG Working Groups:

Kick testing

AD and HD have restarted kick testing at two sites in Sandford Orcas and currently sending results to Kim. NWG have purchased logo hi-viz gilets for their safety when testing.

ACTION: Kim to send all kicktesting results to Rowan for dissemination preparation and to send copies to Riverfly.

ACTION: Kim to deliver two hi-viz gilets and the second kick testing set to HD and AD

Photometer

Photometer testing has now been restarted as NWG HQ now has the utilities to support it. A request was made by a parish resident for NWG to test potential pollution at a pond in Nether Compton, at the suggestion of PC Cllr.CH. This was carried out 12/05/25 and unacceptably high levels of phosphates were found. The report was forwarded to the individual concerned and to PC Cllr.CH.

ACTION: Kim to send all photometer results to Rowan for dissemination preparation.

ACTION: Kim to write 'Instructions for sample collection' to be added to website.

Lark survey

NWG has not carried out the lark survey this year but observation has been made that there has been lark activity in fields which have then been cut for silage.

Following the cut no lark activity. Kim has approached wildlife charities RSPB and

DWT for clarification on farmers obligations, as disturbing nests is a criminal offence.

ACTION: Kim to write report for NWG website.

Badger cull

The Badger Trust and Wild Justice are currently taking DEFRA to court for failing to follow their own scientific advice (Scientific advice states badger cull ineffective in minimising BTb, most transmission bovine to bovine, yet DEFRA have granted more licenses stating their reason as not to upset the farmers).

ACTION: Kim to write update report for website.

Hunting with Hounds research update

The survey is now live on NWG website, some small amendments required.

ACTION: All trustees to make submission and then email NWG with appraisal of ease of submission

ACTION: Kim to send slight amendments to Rowan for adjustment

ACTION: Kim to draft flyer promoting survey, to include details of hunt season, purpose of survey, info about NWG inc. membership and donations. Kim to send draft to trustees for approval. Flyers to be printed by Vistaprint. These will be directly issued to areas known to be affected by the hunt. We aim to have this actively rolled out and in the public domain before June 21st.

Other business

Rowan forwarded details of webinar: "Improving Biodiversity in the UK: What hope for ending the UK's status as one of the world's most nature depleted countries" for NWG interest. The group agreed that it would be beneficial for us to attend but that the fee of £150 was prohibitive to the group. However, Emma's work have asked Emma to attend on their behalf, so Emma will feed back as much as possible.