

# Woodford-cum-Membris Parish Council



## Great Central Woodland Management Committee

### Minutes of a Meeting on the 24th July 2019 in the Farndon Room

#### Those Attending:-

**Members of the Committee:** Darren Bennetts, Paul Blackwell (Chair), Patricia Darby, Peter Deverill, Ian Dobson, Robert Snedker (Vice-Chair)

**Secretary to the Committee:** John Williams

**Members of the Public:** None

#### 1. Receive and Consider Apologies for Absence:

Kay Coles, Ruth Curzon, Sam White

#### 2. Receive Members Declarations of Interest Relevant to Agenda Items

Darren Bennetts raised his interest regarding higher path stump clearance.

#### 3. Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were approved.

#### 4. Hear Matters Arising

Additional litter bins ordered by the Parish Council have been delivered & Peter will arrange setting on site (PC expense, not Woodland).

PDe

(Subsequent to the meeting) The Woodland Newsletter, "It's Your Woodland #2" has been distributed.

#### 5. Hear Issues Raised By The Public

None.

#### 6. Receive an Update on the Memorial Area

Peter Deverill reported that the fence now installed. A discussion over whether there

was sufficient access to the area concluded that no further work was needed.

Patricia Darby will confirm that the sign meets our specification and can be paid for. PDa

There were concerns over the recent strimming, confirmed by the later walk (Item 12). Peter Deverill will talk to Kay Coles to confirm with Scotts that only a 6 inch edge from the path is strimmed & around the seats, in order to protect plants and wildlife in the central area. PDe

Peter Deverill advised that one of the three rowan trees planted last year had failed but that he was seeking a replacement from the original suppliers (who have subsequently agreed to replace FOC). PDe

John Williams had provided a specimen of a possible design for the Memorial Stone top plate.. The design and was agreed and the wording, subject to minor changes, agreed. John Williams will provide Peter Deverill with a revised design. JCW

Ian Dobson advised that it was unlikely Cummins could fabricate the top plate. Peter Deverill will get quotes for creating it. PDe

Patricia Darby said she had seen how lilies were used in the Memorial area at Evenleigh Woods and thought they might be useful here. She will provide more details at a future meeting. PDa

## 7. Receive an Update on Grant Applications

Sam White advised by email that the Rural Payments Agency expected that we should hear further news on the Natural England Countryside Stewardship Grant in late September. SW

Paul Blackwell said that as a specification of work was now available (see below) he hoped to be able to seek grant funding for some or all of the Riverside Top Walk once quotations were available.

## 10. Naming of Woodland Paths

John Williams circulated the proposed path naming. It was agreed that existing names would be retained for current tracks, the name "walk" used for longer routes and the term "cut" for paths linking other routes. The map based on these was agreed, save for removing references to car parks. A version with the current path names could be published on the Signpost.

Paul Blackwell said that the current cut between the Wetland Top Walk and the Wetland Bottom Walk should be seen as temporary and that the Committee should be careful not to add additional routes because of the risk of creating expectations that they would then be maintained, placing an additional cost burden on the Woodland. There were no plans to include a connection to the "Wetland Cut" in the proposed Riverside Top Walk improvement.

## 12. Review Other Activities Relating To The Management Plan

Plan Action No:	Comments	
3.1	Paul Blackwell reported that Powell Forestry's sub contractor had pulled out of the planned additional work. Committee Members expressed frustration that this work could not be brought to completion but agreed that there was little option except to continue pressing Powells to complete.	PB
6.3	Ian Dobson had met with the Young Woodlanders club and a number of activities were being planned.	ID
2	<p>Peter Deverell and Robert Snedker confirmed that the excavator contractor had quoted for four days work to do the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• position the concrete litter bins from their storage location to the installation points.</li> <li>• Relocate chippings to the sites where they could be spread</li> <li>• re-profile the Phipps Road / Byfield Road entrance and Memorial Glade corner.</li> <li>• Carry out the re-profiling of the Station Road entrance ramp</li> </ul>	
2.6	From discussion the last of these would consume half the cost and given the current overspend versus budget it was agreed that this cost and any additional work needed for the first phase work on the Station Road entrance ramp would need to be separately approved by the Parish Council (See also 12 below).	PB
2.8	Paul Blackwell circulated a copy of the specification of planned works for the Riverside Top Walk. He would progress this by obtaining quotations for the work involved.	PB
2.9	Darren Bennetts advised that he had availability of the chipper for Tuesday to Friday week commencing 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 in exchange for £50 per day & the cost of fuel but needed a tow vehicle to get it to site and two volunteers each day to support chipping operations between 9:00 and 16:00.	
	Robert Snedker agreed to identify a tow vehicle for 2.9 above.	RS
	John Williams agreed to contact Ruth Curzon with a view to identifying volunteers able to help.	JW
	Peter Deverill agreed to approach Cummins for manpower support.	PDe

### **13. Consider Any Other Item the Chairman Decides is Urgent**

A discussion on ways of raising additional funding led to the idea of selling split logs using the timber felled outside of the Powell contract. Although there were some obstacles, especially relating to storage of cut wood and handling of deliveries to customers, it was agreed that it was worthwhile pursuing further.

Darren Bennets would discuss the idea with Leadbeaters, who supply cut logs in the village.

DB

### **14. Set a Date for the Next Committee Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7:00pm in the Farndon Room (no meeting in August).

### **12. Woodland Walk**

Following the meeting, Paul Blackwell, Patricia Darby, Peter Deverill, Ian Dobson, Robert Snedker, and John Williams, went to examine the site of the proposed Station Road entrance ramp and the Memorial Glade. The problem with strimming identified in 6 above was reviewed. It was agreed that the Glade fence setting was as intended and that the proposed ramp installation offered a solution to the problem of reducing the slope on the entrance way.