

Shipton Wildflower Woods

Meeting held 25.9.2025 Millstone Yard Shipton

Present: John Farbrother, Branwen Farbrother, Simon Llyod-Jones, Ruth King, Stephen Reynolds, Adrian Salton, Anne King

1. Meeting commenced 7.00pm. **Apologies for absence** Debbie and Melanie.
2. Minutes from last meeting not available, to be reviewed at the next meeting.
3. JF confirmed the running track construction will commence 29.9.25. JF requested an access bridge to WFW following a site meeting with Adrian and contractor.

A concrete platform to be built to site a bench located adjacent the corner of the site close to where the sign is currently in place. This work is part of the running track contract. Work is expected to be completed in 2 weeks.

The soil and turf removed to make the track was discussed and agreed this would be dispersed into the ditch between the playing field and SWW. It was felt the ditch would accommodate the removed soil as calculated by the contractor. The possibility of some soil dispersal behind the hedge adjacent the bowling green was discussed. This area is currently used for grass clippings by the bowling club, but the chairman believes the ditch as discussed will have sufficient capacity. SWW interest to be site managed by JF and Martin Sellars.

4. Discussed mixing meadow grass seeds with wildflower seeds and planting in newly created area where ditch currently is. Sowing to be carried out March/April 2026 weather dependent.
5. Spring flowers and non-native species discussed. The suitability of wild daffodils and other wild early species such as primroses, violets, celandine and others were discussed. The committee agrees SWW is not a garden or a park and it is felt the wildflower woods is about native wildflowers appropriate to where we live. JF to speak with Alwyn to ask if he can recommend and source for wildflower plugs to plant in the spring. RK investigating sources of appropriate wildflower plugs and seeds.
6. Agreed to cut the meadow area at the last meeting by a contractor. The path to be cut by hand. Alwyn agreed to cut the meadow with his flail mower and collector. Agreed rate £30 per hour estimated to be under £200. Stones to be removed before this work commences (upcoming weekend). Message to go out to committee on WhatsApp. Cuttings to go on the edge of the site adjacent the farmer's track.
7. Last volunteer meeting Saturday 4th October 2025.

Re-commence Saturday 7th March 2026.

8. Funds discussed and balance agreed to be healthy and expected to cover immediate future expenditure. Agreed to settle website design balance £280 and Forest of Flowers (estimate) £200.

9. AOB

Website – J & BF, AK reviewed progress to date. Looking good and design includes SWW history, photos, supporters. Expected to launch early October 2025.

Website will require future editing AK suggested £200 maximum expenditure to carry out a “test planting” of new native spring flowers. The planting plan was used to discuss where new planting should be. Suggested a soil banking might be possible to replace the ditch and planted with primroses. Violets to be planted in the meadow area at the centre/rear of the site.

10. Next committee meeting 15th January 2026 7.00pm.

Christmas Party 11th December 7.00pm.