

# Shipton by Beningbrough Parish Council

## Shipton Wildflower Woods

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### Minutes of meeting 17/10/24

Present: John Farbrother, Stephen Reynolds, Jim Gittings, Betty Hiles, Debbie Evans, Tim Addyman, Adrian Salton, Anne King, Ruth King, Simon Llyod-Jones, Kate Rigg.

	Action
1. Apologies: Branwen Farbrother, John Hartshorne, Melanie Forster	
2. Previous minutes approved.	
3. Matters arising - none	
4. Contractor to flail mow - it was agreed that the open areas could be flail mowed after the thistles had been removed. The areas around the trees to be left as wildlife habitat and seed for the birds. JF suggested that Matthew (from the egg farm) may agree to lend us a machine and someone to do this.	
5. Volunteer opportunities for the whole group - <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Removing tree guards from dead trees could be done in spring.</li><li>○ Committee to trial digging out thistles on Sunday 3rd Nov 10am, or Sat 9th if rained off. With a view to this as a potential group activity.</li><li>○ Himalayan balsam could be pulled out along the field edge to help prevent it's spread.</li></ul>	
6. Hedge and ditch maintenance - <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ It was decided to discuss hedge maintenance in the next meeting as JH may be in attendance then and it is a particular concern of his. We can afford a contractor for this.</li><li>○ See item 5.</li></ul>	
7. Paths and how to improve access - Access to the paths is hampered by the presence of the ditch and needs improving. The building of a bridge was discussed. We could hire someone with a digger to move soil to make a bridge with a pipe underneath. We could obtain pipe offcuts from MKM. We may need to add hardcore to stabilise this. Or we could use stones collected from the field. It was agreed that it should look natural and unobtrusive. No firm plans or date were set for this yet.	
8. Remove stakes and tubes from failed trees - <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ see item 5.</li><li>○ We reaffirmed our previous decision to not replace dead trees for now. The close planting was to allow for some losses. It currently looks like a relatively small number have died and this will give the other trees more room to grow. We will leave the job of removing tree guards from the dead trees until they start to regrow, as more may be lost over winter. We will have a system of marking the dead ones with marker pen around the tree guards. A date for removal will be set in the next meeting.</li></ul>	

9. Plant some more annuals for colour - It was agreed to sow the left over seed in the bare areas in spring and rake this over. Some extra annual wildflower seed could be bought from our budget.

10. Accounts and fundraising -

- Since last meeting: Income = £1034.24 from various ongoing sources and VAT rebates; Expenses = 335.03 for a scythe, printing and material to repair notice board. Our balance is £7594.46.
- Betty brought along some new pictures, which we will sell via the group. JF will photograph them and send them around.

11. Social media - JF and AK have set up a Google account for SWW. This will enable us to share minutes and other important documents more easily, and provide a shared space to access them. All present provided AK with their Google emails with AK, or agreed to set one up, so she could share the link.

12. AOB -

- It was pointed out that one of the larger trees has acquired memorial ribbons, which we do not want to encourage for the health of the trees. TA knows the family and is going to ask them to move the ribbons to the surrounding fencing.
- Yorkshire Green are offering funds via National Grid's Community Grant Programme. We are not eligible for this money due to our connection with the council, but give our support to the running track around the playing field proposed by Shipton Space.

13. Next meeting: Thursday 9th January 2025, 7pm, Millstone Yard Lobby.