

HOLT TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE SPOUT HILLS COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Spout Hills Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd March, 2011
at Holt Community Centre

PRESENT: Cllr Allison (Chairman), Cllr B Payne, Cllr C Hipperson , Lynne Jackson, Fiona Joliffe, Tony Leech (Vice Chairman), George Rudd, Sarah Price (NCC Countryside Officer) Town Clerk Di Dann

1. APOLOGIES

There were apologies from Philip High

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Fiona Joliffe declared an interest as a member of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and CPRE.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th DECEMBER, 2010

On a **PROPOSAL** by Cllr Payne seconded by G Rudd the minutes were **AGREED** and signed. It was noted that the repair work to the pond had been undertaken very successfully There was now frog spawn in there.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public.

5. PROGRAMME OF WORKS FOR THE SUMMER PERIOD

Tony had presented a list

Small tasks to be carried out as soon as possible

- 1 Removal of vegetation piles to Letheringsett Road entrance (Lynn's tractor needed) **AGREED** to do this work on Monday 4th April meeting at 10.00 a.m. Lynn would bring tractor and trailer, Bryan, Tony and John were also able to assist.
- 2 Dispersal of soil and removal of stones from pile near Letheringsett Road gate.
- 3 Litter and glass clearance
AGREED to do this on Tuesday 29th March 10.00 a.m. on Spouts; 3.00 p.m. on Little Hills. Corrugated iron to be returned to south of site.
- 4 Removal of 'waste' concrete by pond.
- 5 Secure Yellow Iris in pond (has floated free)
- 6 Bonfire (of dead wood piled up).
- 7 Pulling and carrying off dead willowherb etc. round small pond. This would be burnt and also brambles.
- 8 Mow off new-growth blackthorn at east end of Town Meadow. (use the rotary brush cutter)

9 Dig out Giant Hogweed (Tony)

Other matters discussed were:

10 Bracken and dock control – spraying (but not in the valley, where it would be hand pulled)

11 Clearance of ivy behind spring; from hawthorn overflow.

12 Removal of vegetation on east side of stream between bridge and northern edge of Hills.

More major tasks for later in the season

1 Mowing valley

At this point there was discussion on the information given by NCC Countryside Officer. NCC would no longer be funding conservation work unless it was on land owned by NCC. She would also be unable to support the work on the Common as her job was being redefined and advertised.

Members **AGREED** that this matter should be referred to the Town Council and a request should be made to write to NCC to express concern at the withdrawal of funding and also expert support for the site. Sarah was thanked by the meeting for her support over a number of years. Her input had been greatly valued. She suggested that the Town Council makes contact with NWT to see if there were opportunities for funding.

However the cutting of the valley was undertaken the grass should not be cut up so as to allow for it to be flailed.

2 Tony suggested that if funds did not permit then mowing of the site should be done over a three-year rotation using the Benassi cutter. To start mid-September may require several sessions – to be completed in time for Gresham's half-term (late October).

2 Control of Reedmace in valley (to start at end of May).

3 Bracken pulling in valley (to start at end of June).

4 Pull Reedmace in small pond.

5 Look out for New Zealand Pigmyweed in valley.

6 Amenity mowing.

Other matters discussed were:

7 Spray bracken on slopes to north and east of path from pond towards Letheringsett Road.

8 Spray docks at base of Holly Hill.

6. CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

6.1 Consider the reply arising from Item 7 of the Minutes of the September 2011 meeting concerning drainage and fencing on the western perimeter of the common.

This was noted but also that the barbed wire had been re-positioned. The ditch needed to be cleared as there were many broken branches in it. Tony and Bryan would arrange this.

6.2 Letter from Natural England re CSS following their inspection visit in early

January 2011. This was noted and a reply would be written. The weather had been so bad since November 2010

6.3 E mail concerning a water feature at the Spout

This was noted but the funds needed for a feature were not available. The pipe, did not show so much, since the pond repair had taken place.

6.4 Request from the Scouts to assist. It was **AGREED** to invite them to the next but one Working Party which was set for Saturday 7th May. This was because the last Saturday in April was 30th April and a Bank Holiday week end. They would be asked to assist with the bonfires.

7. Other matters

7.1 Tractor

It was noted that the intention to buy a tractor and trailer had been frustrated last year, but there was £2500 in the budget in 2011/12 for this and John had already acquired a trailer. (but he had no tow bar)

8. NEXT MEETING

This was **AGREED** as Wednesday 14th September 2011 at 7.00p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

.....

Chairman

.....

Date