
THE WELLCOME TRUST GENOME CAMPUS

WETLANDS COMMUNITY CONSERVATION GROUP

Tuesday 17th September 2019, 12 noon, N2-40, Morgan Building

Actions

Item Description

1. Welcome and apologies from Laura Osborne, Terry Sadler, Gerry Birch, Will Newhouse, Tim Leech, Eve Coomber and Andrii Iudin.

1.1 Update Hinxton Parish Council (ST)

As all aware, sadly Willy Brown had passed away and two councillors resigned from the Hinxton Parish Council. Ceri Williams, Sam Nichols and Rupert Kirkby have been proposed to fill these vacancies [update: and have now been elected] to Hinxton Parish Council. ST will be retiring in May 2020 but would still like to attend the Wetlands meeting ex-officio (see also 1.2., below). Graham Fagg will Chair the Parish Council and Dick Jones will continue on the Parish Council for the time being. Continuity Planning will include Weir Management at the Mill to control water levels, (submitted as a Section 106 request but so far rejected by Wellcome as it was not a direct consequence of the planning). Further 106 request now submitted includes new Village Hall and recreation facilities and wildlife areas (see also 8.2., below) as well as traffic mitigation.

For the new agreement on footpaths and access drawn up after the installation of the new iron bridge, it initially appeared that Hinxton Parish Council could have a contingent liability for repairs but a re-drafted agreement has now been received which states clearly that this is not the case and the Bidwells/Wellcome will cover repairs and maintenance due to deterioration.

For the wooden bridge near the Hinxton-Ickleton level crossing, a new path has been created from the north end of the bridge to the level crossing so that when that bridge deteriorates it can be removed without loss of access to the footpath network.

1.2 Welcome & Introduction to Ceri Williams

Ceri Williams will join the Hinxton Parish Council and the Wetlands Conservation Group Committee. CW has over 20 years' experience with Anglian Water sewage treatment management for Saffron Walden, Newmarket and Cambridge, including water recycling, treatment works with the nearest in Great Chesterford.

2. Actions from Last Meeting

2.1 Date of Winter Walk

IW and SHB to discuss during separate contract meeting.

[Post Meeting Note: Date scheduled for Autumn Walk on Tuesday 19th November 2019]

2.2 Badger Crossing – no further communications. Close

2.3 Work Parties

IW reported that there had been poor attendance but were successful with four at one and three at the other event.

SHB suggested that it may help to remedy that by promotion within the new community garden group on Campus. LO advised that nine people attended the turf cutting event.

Action: SHB to speak to Laretta Lamont for promotion/inclusion of work parties.

SHB

2.4 Ground Works Schedule – Coppicing Rising Removal

LO and SB to advise whether risings from coppicing can be chipped and removed during treeworks by contractor on Campus.

2.5 Owl boxes

These could be put up during coppicing and treeworks, we will speak to contractor and get bigger works programme and this will be included for the owl boxes. Once large and two small bird boxes are stored in the Wetlands Shed.

Action: SHB to speak to Jayne Proctor about budget

SHB

2.6 Refugia

LO advised that some refugia has been found in the Wetlands shed. LO agreed to collect up and store all the refugia in the Wetlands shed in readiness for next year.

Action: LO to collect and store refugia in the Wetlands Shed over Winter.

LO

2.7 Wetlands Maintenance Contractor Works

Schedule will be given to contractors for next year's work

There will be no work on Lake 3 due to bird ringing and works will be carried out on Lakes 2 and 4.

Action: SHB to speak to contractors & send plan to ALL over next couple of weeks.

SHB

3.0 Sightings & Surveys

Birds:

NR reported that he had undertaken the Common Bird Census undertaken and in the process of getting maps in.

- Water Rail - the highlight was finding family of Water Rail.
- Little Egrets - the first survey found Little Egrets making their way to Ickleton and the lake

ST reported sightings of these at the Mill in Hinxtton

NR suggested they could also be Cattle Egrets.

- Kingfishers - AK reported that they had been found breeding on the Wetlands.
- Little Owls – NR reported that there had been no evidence of breeding but had seen one or two in the area.

- Wood Pigeons found on the turned over areas of the Wetlands.
- Turtle Doves had not been recorded during feeding but one was heard and seen on the wire by AK but may have been passing through. Feeding area shown on camera but did not show evidence of Turtle Doves, it did show Badgers, Green Woodpeckers, Muntjac Deer.
Habitat is Good and IW and AK will repeat next year with a wash up meeting in October scheduled with ecologists. AK will continue with supplementary feeding going and bird club.
- Barn Owls – ST advised they showed an interest in boxes but Bidwells caused treeworks to be done in March and put them off using these, so will ask them to avoid repeating at the same time of year in future.
NB advised Barn Owls are protected and should be pointed out in communications to Bidwells, SB agreed such information in emails can help.
Full report in February:-

Butterflies:

EC had reported a good year for butterflies and in particular

- Marbled Whites

Moths:

- Clear Wings – good year for these.
- Large Red Belted Clear Wing – Reliant on Silver Birch
- Red Belted Wing – Reliant on the Orchard

Reptiles

Not many seen and only two Common Lizards this year

AK will add these to the report but does not have a photograph for these.

Plants

Less rabbits didn't help, this year area was not dominated by thistle.

To discuss

River Cam – WT

SHB will work with Anglian Water and the Trout Club by using the Wetlands were not put in for water quality regime but bio-diversity. CTC believe the river could be improved. SHB is working with both parties, particularly with the planned expansion, as that would definitely need to happen and it is not big enough.

Summary of Sightings:

Kingfishers seen by AK

Otters – odd one or two

No Mink

IW saw Water Shrew from bridge – potentially

Voles – spreading towards Shelford and will re-enter the River Camb and head this way.

4.0 Pond Vegetation Clearance & Margin Reclaim Works

4.1 Ponds are Dry

There is an element which is to do with works in January and it has been dry this year.

LO team asked whether it was good to spray

NC keep hygiene strict with BTO good to get a set of boots to keep just for us.

Waders can be kept in the Wetlands shed.

MS pointed out that Himalayan Balsam has been spread by contractors into the river as they have not been there previously.

Crassula – it was agreed to go ahead with attempt to treat whilst back to bare mud.

MS has experience but advised it would be better to use specific contractor for liaison with AW and Defra

IW advised that flame throwers work well.

Action: SHB to liaise with contractor to treat whilst ponds dry.

5.0 Annual Maintenance

SHB

5.1 Grass Cutting

Agriplant will be repeating the flailing, last carried out in March/April on the Wetlands, which caused issues with nesting birds and wildflowers. IW would prefer this to be undertaken during Autumn rather than Spring. LO advised they will be in soon to do perimeters.

MS has been strimming and keeping trees back and will continue with this programme.

5.2 Himalayan Balsam

MS is still trying to pull up the Himalayan Balsam. IW reported that the work party did a little bit of pulling but concentrated more on removal of Hemlock. ST had, in the past, stopped people with children picking it and using as a pea shooter.

Introduction of regular cutting it will manage the spread of Himalayan Balsam.

6.0 Work Parties & Events

Summary of 2019 events; 16 x guided walks including autumn & winter walks with attendance of 223 people, IW reported these had been both regulars and newcomers.

Mike Bogey circulates newsletter for Hinxton monthly and LM forwards posters and dates of events by closing date.

7.0 Health and Safety

7.1 Dog Poop Issue

Issue to be raised in Hinxton News and added to Helix.

Dog bins discussed but agreed this would not be progressed further with bags.



8.0 Any Other Business

8.1 Appreciation of Grounds Team

AK thanked grounds for looking after Bee Orchids this year and as a result the quality has been great.

NC seconded that and thanked Grounds Team.

8.2 Section 106 and Traffic

ST advised that Hinxton Parish Council did reiterate hope that all WGC land would be run as biodiversity and could do a lot more than the Stewardship Scheme.

9. Dates of Next Meeting

Tuesday 25th February 2020, 12 noon, N2-40 Morgan Building.

Attendees

Sarah Burgess (SHB)
Iain Webb (IW) WLT
Norman Cobley (NC)

Lorraine Moore (LM)
Dr Steve Trudgill (ST)
Neil Rawlings (NR)

Andrew Knights (AN)
Ceri Williams (KW)
Andrii Iudin (AI)