KELSALE-CUM-CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Alan Revell

Parish Clerk

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13th Meeting of Kelsale-cum-Carlton Biodiversity Group 7pm on Monday 3 June 2019 Farriers House, Bridge Street, Kelsale

	1.	Wel	lcome	and	Apo	logies:
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Acting Chairman KD opened the meeting at 7.15pm, following informal biodiversity surveys of KD's meadow (Site G1) and JxB's garden (Site G16), and welcomed those present.

Attending: Keith Dickerson (KD, Chair), Jerry Bowdrey (JB), Charles Cuthbert (CC), Chris Burslem (CRB-Minutes), Janet Barnes (JxB).

Apologies: Claire Buttle (CB) and Kirsten Hecktermann (KH).

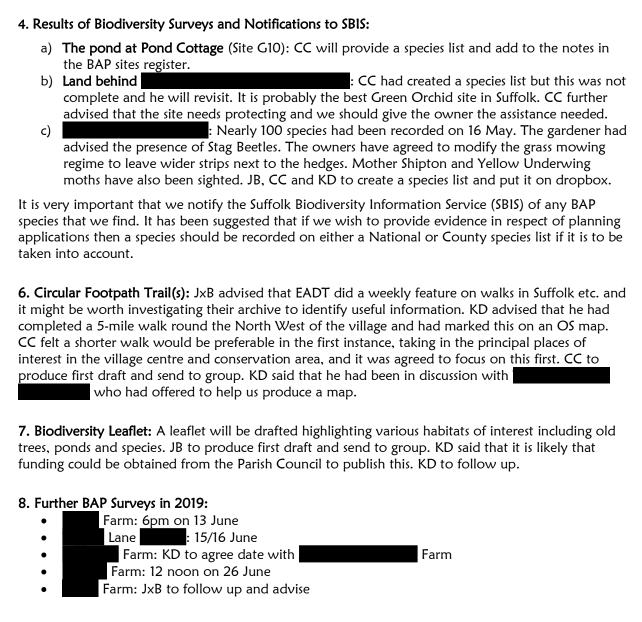
CB had resigned from the group and KH had requested a leave of absence (both accepted).

has also moved away leaving us 4 members down since the beginning of the year. It was therefore agreed to seek new members: JB will ask

Church Close, CC will ask

KD will ask

- 2. Election of Chair: KD was proposed as Chair by CRB, seconded by JB and agreed unanimously.
- 3. Notes and Actions from 12th Meeting on 29 April 2019:
 - a) Kelsale Churchyard Management Plan: CC to send CRB a copy of the plan. Help is needed to remove sycamore saplings and we will investigate setting up a work party. KD said the Parish Council had indicated a willingness to fund. JB to discuss the issue with
 - b) **Sensory Garden:** This will wait until we have more resources.
 - c) Carlton Church Wildlife Meadow: Await further information and photographs from JB. KD will then approach the owner.
 - d) Policy on Moles on the Recreation Ground: It was agreed to continue with the present policy with the volunteer rota dispersing the soil from the mole hills as and when required and not to resort to trapping, etc. JB will complete (see draft attached to these minutes) and submit to the Parish Council.
 - e) **Suffolk Greenest County Award:** KD confirmed that our entry had been completed and submitted. CC had heard from the RSPB that they would like further information on the Turtle Doves mentioned.
 - f) Swift Boxes: CC confirmed that 8 swift nest boxes had been fixed within the village (KVH x 4, KD x 1 and 2 in Cloutings Close) and there was still one awaiting placement. Cost of these boxes is £17.50 each and CB would put an article in the New Oasis asking if anyone else would like one. and and have advised that they would like to have 8 put up in the autumn on the Guildhall. CB advised that the Saxmundham Swift Group would be surveying Kelsale in July.



9. AOB: It was agreed that public engagement, and especially involvement from the CEVCP school, is an important part of the Biodiversity Group's activities. KD will contact the CEVCP school to identify the name of the replacement for and their level of interest.

10. Next Meeting: 8th July at a venue to be agreed. The meeting closed at 8:55pm

Let's not make a mountain.....mole-hills on Kelsale Recreation Field

Originally a woodland species, loss of habitat has forced moles to extend their activities into grassland and other habitats where they are perceived as pests, mainly due to the presence of their mole-hills.

Most of their year is spent deep underground in runs excavated with their spade-like forefeet. During the breeding season there is an increase in tunnelling as males seek females – this is when shallower tunnels and mole hills are most obvious at the surface in late winter, early spring. On the positive side mole activity aerates and drains soils, creating a fine tilth and their prey includes harmful invertebrates such as leatherjackets.

Aside from the ethical considerations of destroying a living creature because of its untidy habits, the RSPCA is not entirely convinced that spring traps are a totally humane method of control and if moles are destroyed leaving their tunnel system intact, it will attract other moles from surrounding areas which then re-occupy the tunnel system, perpetrating the problem.

The fine soil of mole hills is easily raked flat and more regular sports activity occurring on the playing field surface will also have a deterrent effect on mole activity. A light rolling of the play area could flatten any additional hills arising. Furthermore, ROSPA has no documented evidence of injuries sustained from negative human/mole-hill interactions.

Accordingly, it has been agreed that the situation will be monitored throughout the next year and that a rota of volunteers will rake any mole hills that appear on the playing field and paths, spreading the soil thinly so as not to affect the surrounding grass.

After centuries of persecution, maybe the velvet-coated gentlemen deserves a break!