

KELSALE-CUM-CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL



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16th Meeting of Kelsale-cum-Carlton Biodiversity Group 7pm on Monday 11 November 2019 The Walnuts, Curlew Green

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Chairman KD opened the meeting and welcomed those present. KA took the notes.

Attending: Keith Dickerson (KD, Chair), Jerry Bowdrey (JB), Charles Cuthbert (CC), [REDACTED] (KA, Minutes), Janet Barnes (JxB), [REDACTED] (CCol), [REDACTED] (MC).

Apologies: Chris Burslem (CRB).

KD to invite [REDACTED] (new Headteacher of Kelsale CEVCP School) to the BAP group.

KD to send GDPR permissions forms to CCol, MC and KA so their names could appear in minutes.

KD to invite CCol, MC and KA to dropbox.

2. Notes and Actions from 15th Meeting on 2 September 2019:

- a) **APM:** Our proposal to give a presentation on Biodiversity in the Parish to the Kelsale-cum-Carlton Annual Parish Meeting (APM) in 2020 had been accepted. The date of the APM had been set for 22 April to suit our availability. More under Item 4 below.
- b) **Moles on Recreation Ground:** Mole traps are still being used on Kelsale Recreation Ground but are only being laid on the area of the football pitch. The PC had considered this necessary to provide an adequate playing surface for the Benhall Badgers team which had just started playing there. The PC had started using the roller as recommended. Racking with a chain harrow was also recommended in the future.
- c) **Swift Boxes:** These are available from a variety of sources. MC could make up if provided with drawings.
- d) **Tree Warden:** CC had been adopted as Tree Warden by the PC. It would be useful to compile a directory of significant trees in the Parish with location, size, general health, TPOs, relevant planning applications and a photo. KD's article for New OASIS (May 2018) "What are your 10 favourite trees in Kelsale-cum-Carlton?" (appended to these minutes) could act as a starter for this. The BAP dropbox subfolder "10 Best Trees in Kelsale cum Carlton" has more information and photos.
- e) **Carlton Church Wildlife Meadow:** KD to approach landowner regarding possible creation of a wildlife meadow based on JB's photos.
- f) **Carlton Meres extension:** JB had commented to the PC on a planning application for an extension to the Carlton Meres site. No BAP species had been identified in the area covered by the proposed extension that might justify refusal.
- g) **Village Car Park:** It had been proposed by the village centre enhancement group to plant the South bank of the village centre car park with wildflowers next spring. We could use seeds or plugs depending on the budget available. JB/CC to advise. If hay from meadows was used we should remove grass first. KD to ask PC for a grant of £100 towards this.
- h) **Kelsale Churchyard:** It was agreed that this should be cut in sections in September each year on a 3 Year rotation. KD to ask PC for £300/year to carry this out.

3. Proposal for Late Cutting of Roadside Verges

The PC had agreed our proposal for late cutting of selected roadside verges in Kelsale-cum-Carlton. KD to arrange meeting with [REDACTED] (County Highways) in Spring 2020 before the first verge cutting.

[REDACTED] (Maple Farm)'s views on late cutting were discussed together with the Plantlife Good Verge Guide which had recently received significant publicity in the National media. These could provide a policy for all verges in Kelsale-cum-Carlton. Except where road safety was an issue, the earliest cut should be in mid July, with a 2nd cut in the Autumn in selected areas. There are pilot schemes in Saxmundham and Southwold and we should contact the organizers to find out how successful these had been.

4. Biodiversity presentation to Annual Parish Meeting

It had been agreed that the Biodiversity Group will give a presentation to the APM at 7pm on 22 April. This will be divided into 4 parts with suggested presenters below:

- Introduction (5 mins - KD)
- Biodiversity species present in the Parish (10 mins - JB, CC)
- Biodiversity sites of interest (10 mins - JB, CC)
- Focus on Fromus Reserve (10 mins - ?)

Outlines of presentations should be provided for next meeting.
KD to identify speaker from Suffolk Flora Preservation Trust.

The Biodiversity and Footpath Trail leaflets (see below) should be published and available for this meeting.

5. Results of Biodiversity Surveys and Notifications to SBIS:

- a) [REDACTED] Reserve: JB to add species list to dropbox (Site G6).
- b) [REDACTED]: CC/JB to add photos to dropbox (Site G28). CC to complete species list and notify SBIS.
- c) [REDACTED]: JB to add species list to dropbox (Site G24).
- d) [REDACTED]: Added to BAP Site Register as Site G29. JB to add initial survey.

Further Biodiversity Surveys that have been proposed for 2020:

- [REDACTED] (G26): CC to contact [REDACTED] to arrange a survey.
- [REDACTED] Cottage: KD to contact [REDACTED] to investigate possibility of a survey.
- [REDACTED] Farm (G25): KD to agree date with [REDACTED] Farm. The pond and ancient oak tree are of interest.
- [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]): Survey next Spring.
- [REDACTED] Wood (W5): JB to try to identify owner to investigate possibility of a survey.
- [REDACTED] (G7): This is the one with the pillbox in the middle.
- [REDACTED] (G24) to be re-surveyed next year to look for evidence of stag beetles.

All sites are documented in our sites register on dropbox with a separate subfolder for each site containing photographs, species lists, etc. All to provide updates to this.

JB suggested publishing a guide to the sites we have surveyed identifying their current biodiversity and potential. This would be useful for our Neighbourhood Plan. However, some of the information is confidential and has been obtained on the understanding with the site owner that it would not be published, and so would have to be carefully considered before publication.

6. Circular Footpath Trail(s): CC outlined a draft text of a leaflet for a short walk around the village centre/conservation area featuring the church, historic buildings, ruins, mill and the associated wildlife

and biodiversity. CC to produce a draft for comment by the Group for next meeting. KD to draft a longer walk in the North-West of the parish and send to group for comment. The possibility of providing information boards with funding from the PC was discussed.

7. Biodiversity Leaflet: JB provided an outline of the sections of the proposed leaflet. JB to supply text to KA who will format.

8. AOB: KD to finish [REDACTED] article for New OASIS.

Next Meeting: 7pm on Monday 27 January 2020 at The Farriers House, Bridge Street, Kelsale.

Candidates for 10 Best Trees in Kelsale-cum-Carlton

- A 400 year old oak with a girth of 8.4m at [REDACTED] (largest in Kelsale cum Carlton).
- An oak tree on the left of the footpath [REDACTED].
- A veteran oak [REDACTED].
- The much loved veteran oak on [REDACTED] (2nd biggest in Kelsale cum Carlton).
- A Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) on [REDACTED].
- A Wych Elm next to the railway line [REDACTED].
- The Scots Pine in [REDACTED].
- The Weeping Birch in the [REDACTED].
- A pear tree at the top of [REDACTED].
- The giant sequoia (*Wellingtonia*) [REDACTED].
- An oak tree behind [REDACTED].
- A tree at the junction [REDACTED].
- A sapling Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) on [REDACTED].
- The oak tree marking the boundary between Kelsale-cum-Carlton [REDACTED].

Are there any trees in Kelsale Churchyard worthy of note?