

# KELSALE-CUM-CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL



Chairman: Cllr Alan Revell  
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## 13th Meeting of Kelsale-cum-Carlton Biodiversity Group 7pm on Monday 3 June 2019 Farriers House, Bridge Street, Kelsale

### 1. Welcome and Apologies:

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). [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] of Church Close, CC will ask [REDACTED], KD will ask [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] and CRB will ask [REDACTED].

**2. Election of Chair:** KD was proposed as Chair by CRB, seconded by JB and agreed unanimously.

### 3. Notes and Actions from 12<sup>th</sup> 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 [REDACTED].
- 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. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] 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.

#### 4. Results of Biodiversity Surveys and Notifications to SBIS:

- a) **The pond at Pond Cottage (Site G10):** CC will provide a species list and add to the notes in the BAP sites register.
- b) **Land behind [REDACTED]:** CC had created a species list but this was not complete and he will revisit. It is probably the best Green Orchid site in Suffolk. CC further advised that the site needs protecting and we should give the owner the assistance needed.
- c) **[REDACTED]:** Nearly 100 species had been recorded on 16 May. The gardener had advised the presence of Stag Beetles. The owners have agreed to modify the grass mowing regime to leave wider strips next to the hedges. Mother Shipton and Yellow Underwing moths have also been sighted. JB, CC and KD to create a species list and put it on dropbox.

It is very important that we notify the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (SBIS) of any BAP species that we find. It has been suggested that if we wish to provide evidence in respect of planning applications then a species should be recorded on either a National or County species list if it is to be taken into account.

**6. Circular Footpath Trail(s):** JxB advised that EADT did a weekly feature on walks in Suffolk etc. and it might be worth investigating their archive to identify useful information. KD advised that he had completed a 5-mile walk round the North West of the village and had marked this on an OS map. CC felt a shorter walk would be preferable in the first instance, taking in the principal places of interest in the village centre and conservation area, and it was agreed to focus on this first. CC to produce first draft and send to group. KD said that he had been in discussion with [REDACTED] who had offered to help us produce a map.

**7. Biodiversity Leaflet:** A leaflet will be drafted highlighting various habitats of interest including old trees, ponds and species. JB to produce first draft and send to group. KD said that it is likely that funding could be obtained from the Parish Council to publish this. KD to follow up.

#### 8. Further BAP Surveys in 2019:

- [REDACTED] Farm: 6pm on 13 June
- [REDACTED] Lane [REDACTED]: 15/16 June
- [REDACTED] Farm: KD to agree date with [REDACTED] Farm
- [REDACTED] Farm: 12 noon on 26 June
- [REDACTED] Farm: JxB to follow up and advise

**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 [REDACTED] and their level of interest.

**10. Next Meeting:** 8<sup>th</sup> 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!