

KELSALE-CUM-CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL



Chairman: Cllr Alan Revell
Parish Clerk: Marie Backhouse
E-Mail: clerkkelsalepc@gmail.com www.kelsalecarlton.org.uk

23rd Meeting of Kelsale-cum-Carlton Biodiversity Group 7pm on Tuesday 21 September 2021 Pitfield, off Butchers Road, Kelsale

1) Welcome and apologies

Attending: Keith Dickerson (KD, Chair), Jerry Bowdrey (JB), Charles Cuthbert (CC), Janet Barnes (JxB), Martin Colchester (MC), David Edgerley (DE), Kevin Allenby (KA, minutes) and also joined for part of the meeting by Marcia Edgerley (ME) and Simon Ransome (SR).

Apologies: Chris Colchester (CCol), Sarah Courage (SC)

2) Notes and Actions from 22nd meeting on 23 August 2021

The minutes of the 22nd meeting were approved.

- Spinney Pocket Park – the Parish Council has invited us to submit a new Management Plan with updated costings although it is unlikely that funding will be available until 2022. Emergency funding is being used to cut back the trees which are overhanging the footpath through the park.
- Following our visit on 14 September, Carlton Meres Caravan Park have invited the BAP Group to submit a Management Plan to increase biodiversity. They have also invited SWT to submit a Management Plan. We should liaise with SWT. **Action: KD**

3) Outcome of Biodiversity survey at Tiggins (Tiggins Lane) on 6 September

The large pond was surveyed with many interesting aquatic invertebrates found (especially water beetles) and aquatic plants. There was a lack of oxygenating weeds. Lack of rain noted. An artificial light was attracting moths who are then being drowned, and re-siting was suggested. Records to be sent to SBIS. A return visit next Spring would be helpful for recording amphibians. **Action: JB**

4) Partial Infilling of Pit at Pitfield (off Bridge Street)

DE gave a detailed presentation of the history of the pit, the background to the infilling, the progress to date and the proposed steps to increase biodiversity at the site.

There was a discussion on the disruption caused by the dumper trucks to residents of Bridge Street. However, it was noted that the infilling had saved considerable carbon emissions by avoiding the need to transport large amounts of material to Ipswich to dispose of spoil from the Badger Homes development on Main Road.

These steps include;

- To see what the seedbank from the topsoil from the Badger Homes development contained initially.
- To use native species where possible.
- To plant trees and scrubs where appropriate.
- To use deadwood to create local habitat for insects.
- To consult with Archie Finbow regarding improvements to land management in order to increase biodiversity.
- To continue to use best efforts to care for and improve the property and land.

DE and ME will fund these steps themselves with the help of the donation from DAB Group.

Action: DE

5) Response to public consultation on proposed North Green Solar Farm

This was discussed and KD submitted the following summary of views to the PC meeting on 29 September:

1. The Biodiversity Group should be allowed to carry out a Biodiversity survey of the site. This has been agreed with Carla Hardaker, Senior Development Manager at BSR Energy, and will take place after Jerry Bowdrey and I return on 20 October. The Suffolk Wildlife Trust should also be consulted as they have unrivalled experience in management of land for nature conservation.
2. The plans don't indicate or acknowledge any of the biodiversity sites in the immediate area, such as Tiggins Reserve and Mabel's Wood, and there is an urgent need for closer consultation and involvement with these. There should be a wider buffer between the solar arrays and these sites and between the solar arrays and Tiggins Lane as this is a historical lane with much biodiversity (and a RNR) already present along it.
3. We are pleased to see that planting of wildflower and bird seed strips are proposed. However, there should be a targeted management programme to maintain and enhance biodiversity, in particular for declining species of insects and other invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles, bats and birds. Examples of birds that could benefit include Skylark, Yellowhammer, Linnet, Turtle Dove and Barn Owl.
4. We would like the re-establishment of some of the lost hedges on site and the gapping up of the existing hedges.
5. We want to see new ponds created and the existing ponds (we have data on these) restored and improved to increase aquatic biodiversity. Several of the existing ponds are outside the site boundary and should be included in any management plan.
6. We would like to see topographic features such as beetle banks and south facing bee and wasp nesting sites created, plus reptile and amphibian hibernacula.
7. We want to see proposals for wildlife corridors to link with existing wildlife sites and green links to the wider countryside.
8. The Biodiversity Group should be involved in the proposed screening and planting so that we can maximise Biodiversity on the site after it's built.

A visit to the site by the BAP Group has now been agreed which will take place at 2pm on 26 October. All members are welcome to participate.

Action: All

6) Management Plan for Biodiversity at Carlton Meres

Several members of the BAP Group (KD, JxB, JB, KA) were given an extensive tour of the site on 14 September and made very welcome by the team from Carlton Meres. We met the Manager, Stephen Potts, and were escorted round by Laura Mann.

We will respond to their request for proposals to increase biodiversity (after speaking to SWT) and will request formal permission from Stephen Potts by email. KA to carry out bird survey in winter (if still resident). **Action: KD/KA**

7) Involvement with farming communities in Kelsale-cum-Carlton

KD discussed the potential impact of the Agriculture Act 2020 on farmers' incomes and the need to build in proposals to increase biodiversity in future management plans. To understand this further we will invite SWT Farming & Wildlife Officer (Sam Harvies) to next meeting. **Action: KD**

8) Further Biodiversity Surveys

The following were agreed:

- Kelsale Court
- 8 Church Close (Margaret & Godfrey Huddle)
- Pitfield (next Spring)

9) Report to KCC Parish Council

KD to report back to the Parish Council on 29 September

Action: KD

10) A.O.B.

JB to liaise with Amy Rayner (Saxmundham Town Council) regarding harmonising grass management regimes in Kelsale-cum-Carlton and Saxmundham. **Action: JB**

Date of Next Meeting: Rearranged for 7pm on Monday 1 November at 4 Cloutings Close, Kelsale.