

KELSALE-CUM-CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL



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30th Meeting of Kelsale-cum-Carlton Biodiversity Group 7pm on Monday 6 September 2022 The Cottages, Bridge Street, Kelsale

1. Welcome and apologies

Attending: Keith Dickerson (KD, Chair), Jem Adams (JA, Minutes), Jerry Bowdrey (JB), Charles Cuthbert (CC), Janet Barnes (JxB), Chris Colchester (CCol), Marie Adams (MA).

Apologies: Sarah Courage (SC), Martin Colchester (MC), Sam Hanks (SH), David Edgerley (DE), Louis Ewart (LE)

2. Notes and Actions from 29th meeting on 20 July 2022

The minutes of the 29th meeting were approved.

- **Request from Saxmundham Town Council to help survey the Memorial Field and Fromus Green.** JB had looked at Fromus Green but it had already been mown for the Saxmundham anniversary celebration and this had removed nearly all the wildflowers present. JB had found a slow worm.
- **Attendance at Saxmundham Green Market on 10 September.** KD to send apologies as this event conflicts with the Kelsale-cum-Carlton Village Show.
- **Advice to landowners.** JB and CC to submit a half page article for the October issue of Community News based on advice discussed at 28th and 29th BAP meetings. Deadline for articles is 23 September. **Action: JB/CC**
- **Footpath trails.** CC had already sent the editor of Community News a footpath trail around the village centre which will be printed in the October issue. **Action: CC**
- **Recreation Ground.** Another metre had been mown around the football pitch to allow spectators to stand and watch matches more comfortably. The ragwort had also been removed although this was unnecessary. An information board could make users of the Recreation Ground more aware of the benefits of biodiversity. **Action: CC**
- **Hedge along Main Road.** CC and JB had cut back the hedge adjacent to the site of the Sandy Stiltball fungus along Main Road as requested by the Parish Council.
- **Spinney Pocket Park.** It had so far been impossible to resource the rejuvenation of Spinney Pocket Park as originally planned in 2020 (pre-COVID). The PC owns Spinney Pocket Park and so can't get a grant to work on it without a clear demonstration of community needs. We'll make another attempt to obtain funding and community

involvement in Spring 2023. Any urgent maintenance before then will be funded by the PC.

3. Recap on where we are and priorities to complete for 2022

The recent prolonged drought had had a devastating effect on flora and fauna including a lack of food sources for larvae. JxB will submit an article to Community News on a list of drought resistant plants to grow in gardens. **Action: JxB**

The Queens Platinum Jubilee oak planted at the end of the Recreation Ground in March had survived (we think) but only with frequent watering by KD. In hindsight and with the likelihood of more regular droughts occurring each summer, it was agreed that it would be preferable to plant trees in the Autumn rather than the Spring as this would give more time for them to become established before a dry summer. CC has plenty of oak (and walnut) saplings if we need to replace the jubilee oak. There are also two other young oaks growing nearby. It was agreed that we will wait and see if it revives before taking action to replace it. **Action: KD**

The Presentations to the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) in April had been very well received and it was agreed that we should give an update on progress to the APM each year.

Action: KD to propose to PC

Priorities for the rest of 2022 include:

1. To complete and publish the species inventories already carried out. These include Carlton Meres, Parkgate Farm, Land behind Pear Tree Close and Tiggins Pond.

Action: KD/JB/CC

2. To complete the Kelsale-cum-Carlton list of Notable Trees (Tree Registry) drafted by JB in early 2022.

Action: JB/KD/JxB/CC

3. To complete the BAP Sites Register on Google Drive at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1N_fijmimNfd7LR4PvsOBprrS_NAdteT3?usp=sharing. This would be a useful source of information in one place and if published more widely could be a great ambassador for our work.

Action: All

4. To work with local farmers to improve biodiversity, starting with Sam Hanks and Nathan Finbow.

Action: KD to initiate

4. Wild Spaces

Responding to an article by Chris Burslem in the Summer 2022 edition of Community News, it was agreed that to promote optimum growth of wildflowers the fertility of the soil would need to be reduced. Simply delaying mowing of verges until the Autumn would not produce the expected profusion of wildflowers unless the cuttings were also removed after mowing and this was not being done due to the extra expense. Ideally, the topsoil would have to be stripped away and plugs of wildflowers planted in the resulting nutrient poor soil.

We will propose a project to try out this method on the South bank of the Village Centre Car Park. Cost estimates will be required for submission to the PC for approval and funding.

Action: KD/JB/CC

5. Queens Green Canopy funding for Trees and Hedges

KD had identified around a mile of new hedging required over 8 sites in the parish (listed in notes of 27th BAP meeting). KD and JB to meet at 7pm on 14 September to draw up a map of agreed and potential hedge sites to clarify locations so that funding can be applied for. SH

suggested that 1:10,000 Google Maps (Satellite view) would have sufficient resolution to plot the required hedge sites. **Action: KD/JB**

6. Biodiversity surveys

Carlton Meres: JB and CC had carried out a 2nd survey and a species list is being produced. The site manager, Steve Potts, would welcome further visits by the BAP Group.

Action: JB/CC

- Nonsuch Farm: Tuesday 13 September at 2pm: CC and KD to meet at Nonsuch Farm to measure the ancient pear tree near Corner Bungalow. It is now too late in the year to carry out the proposed moth survey. **Action: KD/CC**
- Fromus Reserve: Tuesday 13 September at 3pm to carry out an outline hedge survey for an article in in Suffolk Flora Preservation Trust Adult Education Series 9 (2022). **Action: KD/JB/JA/CC/JxB**
- Cullar House, Curlew Green: We should measure the girth of the Holm Oak which is probably one of the largest in the parish.
- Nonsuch Farm: SH proposed a Hedgerow Scrumping Day in October to collect seed for new trees which could be planted at Nonsuch Farm in November. **Action: All**

7. Report back to KCC Parish Council on 28 September

JA/CC to report to the PC at 7pm on 28 September. KD will draft the meeting report by the end of the week so it can be used as the basis of this report. **Action: KD/JA/CC**

8. AOB

Date of Next Meeting: 7pm on 10 October hosted by KD at The Cottages, Bridge Street, Kelsale.