

KELSALE-CUM-CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL



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

31st Meeting of Kelsale-cum-Carlton Biodiversity Group 7pm on Monday 17 October 2022 The Cottages, Bridge Street, Kelsale

1. Welcome and apologies

Attending: Keith Dickerson (KD, Chair), Jem Adams (JA, Minutes), Jerry Bowdrey (JB), Sam Hanks (SH), Marie Adams (MA).

Apologies: Sarah Courage (SC), David Edgerley (DE), Charles Cuthbert (CC), Chris Colchester (CCol), Martin Colchester (MC), Janet Barnes (JxB)

2. Notes and Actions from 30th meeting on 6 September 2022

The minutes of the 30th meeting were approved.

- **Attendance at Saxmundham Green Market on 10 September.** The Green Market had been cancelled due to the death of the Queen.
- **Fromus Reserve.** We had met on 13 September to carry out an outline hedge survey for an article in the Suffolk Flora Preservation Trust Adult Education Series 9 (2022). Hedges had been designated A-U and the species in each identified. The maximum number of species found in a single hedge had been 8. Most hedges were less than 200 years old but the hedges along the Great Bank (J, K, L and O) were considered to be over 500 years old. **Action: KD/JB/JA/CC/JxB**
- **Community News.** No articles had been submitted to the Autumn issue of Community News and we are still expecting a half page article on advice to landowners based on advice discussed at the 28th and 29th BAP meetings. Also expecting the footpath trail around the village centre but this could now wait until the permissive paths around Nonsuch Farm had been agreed. JB will draft a half page article on the Jurassic boulder that had been found at Nonsuch Farm (see below). KD to review and submit this. **Action: JB/KD/CC**

3. Report from SWT AGM

Over 100 members had attended the SWT AGM at Carlton Marshes Visitor Centre on 15 October. There had been an inspiring talk from the SWT President, William Kendall, talking about how support for nature could become 'normal' with enough support from the public (ideally 1 in 4 supporting our aims). However, laws to support biodiversity and the environment may be rolled back by the current government and this was anathema to the SWT. Biodiversity is not an 'add on' but a fundamental part of reaching Net Zero.

200 acres of land south of Martlesham Creek had been purchased by SWT and would be rewilded following an appeal for funds.

There had been a talk on Swifts from Eddie Bathgate of Suffolk Bird Group which could be given to KCC APM in 2023.

The SWT farmland advisory team had been expanded to 3, reflecting the increased importance of working with farmers to achieve biodiversity gains at scale. 72% of land in Suffolk is dedicated to farming compared with 2% to wildlife and biodiversity.

4. Nonsuch Farm

The BAP Group had participated in a Hedgerow Scrumping Day at Maple Farm on 13 October to collect seed for new mixed-species hedges. 17 species had been collected including yew, holly and wild service. More seeds will be welcomed provided they are native species. The seeds will be dried by SH and scattered at Nonsuch Farm on 3 November (meet in village car park at 10am). **Action: All**

JB said that the line of poplar trees along the railway line that are planned to be removed for safety reasons are home to the rare hornet moth (eggs are in the bark at the front of the trees). It was agreed that if the poplars are pollarded with the stumps left at 4ft (1.5m) high this would cause minimal damage to the species. This was agreed and the trees will be removed before Christmas with the cooperation of Network Rail. **Action: SH**

Volunteers are needed to plant 286 fruit trees from the East of England Orchard project early in 2023. SH was also setting up a recording group using the "I Read" app. **Action: All**

When excavating ponds at Nonsuch Farm, SH had found several Jurassic boulders (one containing an ammonite) which had been formed in Lincolnshire and moved to Suffolk by the Anglian Glaciation 450 thousand years ago. It was intended to move this boulder nearer the footpath and to set up an interpretation board.

5. Funding for new Hedges

The 27th BAP Group meeting had identified around a mile of new hedging required over 8 sites in the parish but these had not been definitely located on a large scale map. It was agreed that the most effective method of establishing a new mixed species hedge was to use a power harrow to plough a 3m-wide stretch. It was suggested we have another attempt to obtain funding from locality budgets, EDF or Suffolk Tree Wardens. **Action: KD/ JB**

Hedges also need to be planted to screen the extension to Carlton Park Industrial Estate which had recently received planning approval and at Town Farm Solar Park (North Green).

6. Register of Notable Trees

KD to update with 10 largest oak trees in KcC and distribute to group. **Action: KD**

CC and KD to meet at Nonsuch Farm to measure the girth of the ancient pear tree near Corner Bungalow. KD and JA to measure the girth of the veteran Holm Oak at Cullar House, Curlew Green which is one of the largest in the parish. **Action: KD/JA/CC**

7. Species lists

Outstanding species list included Carlton Meres, Parkgate Farm, Tiggins Pond and Pear Tree Close. JB to check status with CC. **Action: JB/CC**

8. Future Biodiversity surveys

- Garden House, Carlton Park to survey the 30 acres of grounds including several ponds, some veteran sweet chestnut trees, a badger set and a potential community meadow.

Action: All

9. Report back to KCC Parish Council on 26 October

KD to report back to the next PC meeting at 7pm on 26 October (this had not happened as KD had to go to a funeral in Surrey on 26 October).

Action: KD

10. AOB

We should try rotavating the south bank of the village car park to encourage wildflowers to propagate and spread. This could then act as an exemplar of how to achieve wildflower spread in other areas. The conifers to the west of the car park would be removed during the next few months and a new hedge planted. The colony of ivy bees should be protected. It was agreed that the thing most limiting the effectiveness of the BAP Group was the lack of funds to achieve our objectives as these had not been available from the PC over the last 2 years. Would it be possible to create a charity or use crowdfunding to better achieve our aims?

A reminder of our priorities for the rest of 2022:

- 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
- To complete the Kelsale-cum-Carlton list of Notable Trees (Tree Registry) drafted by JB in early 2022.
Action: JB/KD/JxB/CC
- 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
- To work with local farmers to improve biodiversity, starting with Sam Hanks and Nathan Finbow.
Action: KD to initiate

Date of Next Meeting: TBC at CC's or JxB's.