

## FILBY LANDS & CONSERVATION TRUST 3

Meeting of the Filby Lands & Conservation Trust held on  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>. February 2021 starting 6pm on Zoom  
by kind invitation of Ms E Rothney.

**Present** – Mr. K Saul, Mrs. J Saul, Ms. I Woodrow, Ms. E Rothney, Mr. D Nicker, Mr. B Chase, Mr. A Thompson.

1. **Apologies for Absence** - none.

2. **Declarations of interest** – none.

3. **Welcome from Chair** - The Trustees were welcomed to the Meeting and Ms. E Rothney was thanked for organizing the technical side of the Zoom meeting and emailing the invitations.

4. **Minutes of the last Meeting** - held on 3 February 2020, were read by the Secretary; Mr. K Saul proposed that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate account of that meeting. This was seconded by Ms. E Rothney and unanimously agreed by the Trustees. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

5. **Matters Arising** - The Chairman reminded the meeting that Essex and Suffolk Water Company, who had given us the Grant for the Land, required a Report on the work's progress after 6 months. Ms. E Rothney agreed to ask E&S Water what the position was, because of the Covid19 Lockdown situation, but thought it probable that the Report would be postponed. The matter was also raised and discussed concerning an agreement between FL&CT and Filby Parish Church regarding the Management Agreement for the Church Meadow area.

6. **Website Update** - Mr. D Nicker gave an update on the FL&CT website which is part of the Filby Village Website. Since 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, as Webmaster, he has been unable to access the website. The provider, "Moonfruit.com" has not responded to questions, or made any communication. This seems to be a problem for hundreds of the website provider's customers. It was agreed that Mr. D Nicker continue with his trial new website on WordPress, which has a much better appearance and better conditions of use. He was thanked by the Trustees for all his hard work on this project.

7. **Correspondence** - none has been received. Two letters of thanks have been sent: on 27 April 2020 to Adam & Paula Douglas of Filby, for their donation of £100, and on 16 December 2020 to Noel Hunt and Dorothy Hunt (deceased), formerly of Filby, in respect of a donation of £500.

8. **Chairperson's Report** - Mr. K Saul thanked everyone for their hard work in such a difficult year, when most volunteer work and all fundraising has been suspended due to Covid19. Ms. E Rothney, Trinity Broads Volunteers and Bure Valley Conservation Group were all thanked for their contribution to the project. Much encouragement could be taken from the local interest in, and appreciation of, the project to plant a Community Nature area, and many people said they would be willing to volunteer their help when this is possible.

As part of the volunteer work, Mr & Mrs Saul have been recording the wildlife on the sites. Mr. D Nicker asked to be supplied with copies of the planting and wildlife lists, to be added to the website.

**9. Treasurer's Report** - Ms. I Woodrow gave her report, which was brief because Covid19 restrictions had prevented fundraising for the past year. As it stands, FL&CT has £605.94 credit in the Santander Bank account; £100 in "Just Giving". All costs and fees for the purchase of the Land have been paid, with the help of a long term loan of £600. Total donations to the Bank Account amount to £650. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Mrs. J Saul; seconded by Mr. K Saul, and unanimously agreed by the Trustees. Ms. I Woodrow was thanked by the Chair.

**10. Project Manager's Report** - Ms E Rothney reported that many hours of Thorn Apple pulling had been needed to try to get this invasive weed under control; the boundary hedge between Trinity Wood and the farm land had been planted, and other trees within the Wood itself, amounting to about 250 saplings in all. Funds are needed to buy the next phase of hedging to plant between the Church Meadow and the farm land. It had been hoped to involve Filby School and the local community in tree planting this winter, but since the trees need to be planted by the end of March, it looks very unlikely that Covid restrictions will allow this. Individual official volunteers will have to do this alone or at the correct social distance.

It is hoped to involve Filby School by them sponsoring a tree and doing craftwork in school to mark the occasion. Norfolk County Council has a scheme to supply native trees for projects such as ours; Mr. A Thompson agreed to make enquiries.

Thrigby Hall Wildlife Gardens have agreed to sponsor the wind flower seed for the Church Meadow, at a cost of approximately £850. The Trustees expressed their thanks, and this will be supported by a letter of thanks when the details are clear. The Church Meadow ground needs to be prepared this spring, so Ms. E Rothney will organize a cut and rotavation of the land.

It should be possible to invite help to broadcast the seed at a safe social distance of 6 feet.

The post and wire fence needs volunteers to do the work in order to keep the cost down, all the equipment and expertise is ready for when the restrictions allow.

The dog bin by the entrance to the Wood, has been moved to the other side of the footpath and a small area cleared and leveled to provide access for one work vehicle, and access to the electricity pole and wires running through the Wood.

The problem of how to regulate public access to the area was discussed, because of the already apparent difficulty with a few people not clearing up dog mess. It was proposed by Mr. B Chase, seconded by Mrs. J Saul and unanimously agreed, that Ms. E Rothney should purchase a basic sturdy sign, asking people to clear up after their dogs.

It was proposed by Mr. B Chase, seconded by Mrs. J Saul, and unanimously agreed that there should be no personal tributes or memorials in the Trinity Wood area, it should be kept as natural woodland.

Originally, a pond was included in the plan for the site, but after discussion, it was unanimously agreed that this could be problematic with health and safety and maintenance, so should not be pursued for the time being.

Ms. E Rothney will obtain about 30 trees of a larger size from Fairhaven Gardens, South Walsham, to be used as Sponsored Trees. It was proposed by Mr. K Saul, seconded by Ms. I Woodrow and unanimously agreed by the Trustees that the Sponsorship cost should be £25 per tree.

If Norfolk County Council can provide some hedging plants, it was agreed that they should be planted straight away. If we have to wait until autumn, then it may be possible to involve the public in this.

Funds need to be found for the post and wire fence. Fundraising is still difficult; it is hoped that “word of mouth” publicity and articles in the local newspapers and media may encourage legacies, gifts and donations.

11. **A.O.B** - none.

The meeting closed at 19.15pm.