

FILBY LANDS & CONSERVATION TRUST 12.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Filby Lands & Conservation Trust held on
Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 3.00p.m. Filby Club Room, Main Road, Filby.

1. **Trustees Present:** All present. Ken Saul, Joan Saul, Irene Woodrow, Derek Nicker, Eilish Rothney, Adrian Thompson, Bernard Chase.
2. **Welcome from Chairman** - Ken Saul opened the meeting.
3. **Apologies for Absence** – None
4. **Declaration of Interest** – None
5. **Minutes of the last Meeting** – held on 23 November 2022 were read by the Secretary and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting.
6. **Matters Arising**
 - a) Dorothy Hunt’s Memorial Seat on Church Meadow, has now been set in place and all money paid.
 - b) The lawn mower in the Filby Community Orchard shed has been given to Jenny Thompson’s Charity Shed Shop and duly sold.
 - c) Ten new trees are being donated to the village, to be placed on the bank by Poplar Drive. FCV are asked to do the planting.
 - d) A room in Filby Village Hall has been set aside to house the Filby Archive. The room had been cleared and cleaned and two shelves put up. Donations of local photos, articles and memorabilia will be accepted. Please give them to Lesley & Keith Johnson, or Joan Saul. Eilish has an eel spear and grup spade which she is willing to loan for special exhibitions.
 - e) A new bee hive is ready to be placed near the Allotments on George Gay’s wildflower/birdseed conservation strip of field.
 - f) The new Walks Leaflet is in progress. Jane & Jeff Turrell are in the process of checking out the routes.
 - g) Derek asked the Secretary for a copy of the FL&CT logo so that he can work on it. He also asked the Chairman for the list of butterflies seen on Trinity Wood/Church Meadow, so that he can post it on FL&CT website.
 - h) Clay Pits – there have been volunteer sessions of clearing, tidying and burning of brash so the area is more open now. Retention of enough water is still an issue which is being addressed. Hedge planting along the side of the Clay Pits Car Park is due to be completed this week.
 - i) Filby Parish Church – a group of members are forming a plan to create a Conservation Area on the North side of the Church, where the oldest graves are situated. The book “God’s Acre” by Francesca Greenoak and the website based on her ideas <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/> are recommended for information. It was agreed that FL&CT members would meet with church members to discuss the matter.

j) This year's first public event, held on 5th February, "**Celebrating World Wetlands Day**" was a great success with 27 local people attending the event. Activities included training in pruning the apple trees on Filby Community Orchard led by Catrina Hilditch, clearing and burning brash, planting 250 native spring bulbs, and after a picnic lunch, a special walk was organized for the afternoon, on Filby Common (Poors Land), overlooking the broad.

Events taking place in Filby already confirmed are: -

22/23 July 2023 - Filby Open Gardens. This will include celebrating local crafts and will host Dyers & Crafters focusing on using plants as natural dyes.

Sunday August 6th. 2023 - Haymaking Day in Filby led by local volunteer groups.

Saturday September 23rd. 2023 – Night-time at Thrigby Wildlife Gardens including, moths, bats and starry skies, start 5.45pm till late.

Saturday October 7th. 2023 - Filby Apple, Orchards & Rural Craft Day, based around Filby Village Hall, crafts, quizzes, cakes, lantern making, concluding with a walk to Filby Community Orchard with the Apple Gypsy to Wassail the Apples.

FL&CT 2023 A.G.M will be held on Thursday July 6th at 6.30pm. in Filby Church.

7. Treasurer's Report

The balance in the bank to date is £4799.44p. Donations were, £74 from Apple Juice sales 2021; £20 from Norwich & District Pike Club (who also gave £30 to Filby Community Orchard to sponsor a tree "Caroline") £20 profit from the sponsorship of planting six new apple trees on Filby Community Orchard; £500 donation from Noel Hunt, brother to Dorothy Hunt.

The Treasurer has asked Mrs Glenda Tooke to audit the accounts again for us this year.

8. Correspondence

Letters of thanks were sent to Jon Golding, : multiple emails 10 MARCH- to 21 MARCH between Andrew Hardy, Filby resident; Chris Thompson, Unitarian Church Trustee; Adrian Thompson; Eilish Rothney; (see 13.Unitarian Site); letter of Thanks and copy of receipt emailed to Norwich & District Pike Club; letter to Noel Hunt thanking him for payment for setting of Dorothy's Seat; letter of Thanks to Noel Hunt for donation of £500. Communications with Burghwood Landscapes, HB Landscape Designs & Kev Dowe, Broadwood Norfolk, asking for quotes to erect a fence between Trinity Wood and Ed. Wharton's field.

9. Chairman's Report

Most things had already been covered. Most of the tree and hedge saplings which needed replacing (5 in all) had been dealt with. The hedge around Filby Church Car Park had been completed and several hawthorn saplings planted within the Church Yard to strengthen and fill gaps in a hedge.

10. AGM – date and arrangements

The date was fixed for Thursday 6th. July 2023 at 6.30 p.m., in Filby Church. There will be a Tombola, book stall, refreshments, a short talk on "Wildlife Gardening", and a walk to Church Meadow & Trinity Wood to see how they have progressed over the year. The Church members have again agreed to provide refreshments. Eilish will give the talk.

This year Voting Members will be confirmed as per FL&CT Constitution. Names of volunteers who have been helping for most of the time since FL&CT was formed and who agree to uphold our values, will be put forward and accepted at this AGM. Those who have already agreed are as follows: Russell & Pam Weston, Jane & Jeff Turrell and Peter Cawley. Still to be asked are Becky Durant and Janina Woodley. Unfortunately one of our volunteers Di Folkes, is in hospital at the minute, but she will join us when she recovers.

11. Quotes for Trinity Wood Fence

Three quotes were obtained for the post and wire fence between Trinity Wood and Ed Wharton's land (not including Church Meadow boundary). The quotes were from Burghwood Landscapes, HB Landscape Designs and Kev Dowe of Broadwood Norfolk.

It was unanimously decided that the quote from Kev Dowe was the best value at £402 including VAT. After discussion Bernard Chase, who represents Filby Church, asked if the Church could have a quote as well, since the quote was so reasonable. Adrian will find out when the field next to Trinity Wood is to be cropped. The Secretary agreed to ask Kev Dowe for a quote for the Church.

12. Filby Community Orchard

Six new apple trees were planted at the Community Orchard on 27 January 2023. A Wassail Ceremony was included, with songs being sung and mulled apple juice and cake shared around. Filby Women's Institute planted a new tree, the team including Valerie Brock who planted the first tree on the Orchard in 2007.

Sue Chase was again thanked for her dedicated, regular mowing of the grass.

A new Sponsorship Certificate has been designed and each new sponsor will receive one stating the variety of their tree and position in the Orchard.

Two volunteers Russell and Nigel have experience with tending vines, so they have taken on the care of the older vines and grown cuttings to extend the vine hedge along the side of the Orchard. The 2022 Vintage of Filby Community Orchard Apple Juice is selling well; out of 192 bottles that were produced, well over half have been sold. Many thanks to Adrian Thompson for selling the apple juice in Filby Post Office, with all profits going to FL&CT.

Restoration work continues on the **Community Wildlife Garden**. The gooseberry bushes are now weeded and pruned and uses planned for the expected crop. The flower beds are being redefined and cleared of invasive species. Perennial plants have been donated including Michaelmas Daisies, daffodil bulbs, and a Buddleia bush. The lady who first planned the garden, Margaret Rolfe, died in autumn 2022. FL&CT Secretary went to the funeral and, in talking to her daughter, discovered that Margaret's plan for the garden was in the shape of "The Web of Life". This can still be traced in the arrangement of the beds, so it was decided to restore the idea in respect for Margaret and all the years of work she put into making the garden. The "Web of Life" is a concept much in current thought at the moment.

13. Unitarian Chapel Site

Advice for management of the ruin site is due to be provided by Norfolk Archaeological Trust. Work on the site was started at the World Wetland's Day event with hazel coppicing, tidying and planting of native bulbs. Subsequently the neighbours to the NE of the Unitarian Site have requested that the trees be cut back from overhanging their garden. The Secretary is in the process of liaising with Mr Chris Thompson, Trustee of Old Meeting, Great Yarmouth,(who oversee the Filby Unitarian Site), on behalf of Mr Andrew Hardy, owner of the adjoining property.

14. Filby Conservation Volunteers

We now have ten members including three fully trained leaders. One member is in hospital at the moment, but attendance is good and we are occasionally joined by Eilish's Trinnie Volunteer group which is very helpful. The Chairman asked if the meeting would agree to the purchase of a few extra tools to supplement those which have been donated to the group. This was unanimously agreed and Eilish offered to purchase them through her specialist supplier.

15. Future Dates

"Filby Apples, Orchards and Rural Crafts Day" is confirmed for **Saturday October 7th 2023** centered at Filby Village Hall – to include a walk to the Orchard with the Apple Gypsy, to Wassail the apple trees.

16. A.O.B

Filby Archive is now being set up in a room at Filby Village Hall and it is planned to have an exhibition of photos for the Coronation of King Charles III, on that weekend 6/7 May 2023. **Bookings** for the Village Hall and Club Room will be going on-line shortly. More details to follow.

The Chairman thanked everyone, and the **meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.**