



Wild and Wood Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday 6 June 2025 at 7pm

Methodist Church Hall, Dereham Road

Committee members present: Roisin Murray (Chair), Hazel Goodall, Martin Goodrum

Parish Clerk: Anita Rose

District Councillor: Not present

County Councillor: Not present

Members of Public: 0

1. Apologies

Cllr Piper and Mr. Frosdick had sent their apologies.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2025

The minutes of the meeting were unanimously **APPROVED** without amendment and signed by the Chair. Proposed by Cllr Goodall and seconded by Cllr Goodrum.

3. Progress update

Roisin Murray had a meeting with Michael Fletcher, organiser of the Mid-Norfolk Conservation Volunteers who offered valuable advice and guidance on the way forward, as well as an offer of help from “his” volunteers (see below).

Watering: Watering was done during the drought period – first by Red Watch Dereham Fire Service and then by local volunteers on three successive Saturday evenings. We had lost 17% of our young trees which is a good result considering the weather. Michael Fletcher noted that whips and trees do not need watering now unless there is a severe drought in July or August, as overwatering can harm them. Mulching with wood chip is possible, but it should not touch the young trees to avoid damage; alternatively, simply cutting the surrounding grass—already done once by a volunteer—is a safe option.

Grass cutting: TTSR has mowed the open areas between tree plantings, leaving long grass and flowers around each "cloud of trees." Michael Fletcher advises that these areas contain native wildflowers, and mowing now would reduce seed spread. His recommendations are letting them flower and cut once seeds have set, then removing green waste to maintain low nutrient levels essential for wildflower meadows.

New Wildflower Meadow Area: Lloyd Frosdick informed Roisin Murray that Chris Bingham will begin work on the meadow next week. Grass removal and ground preparation will take place before seeding. Chris Bingham will also provide a plan for subsequent phases after flowering.

Fenced “community Woodland” and wildflower area: Councillors Fowler, Clarke, and Pickering are scheduled to cut pathways around the area on Thursday 12 June. This work will require scything prior to strimming. Roisin Murray has arranged to visit on Wednesday 11 (potentially with Councillor Piper) to provide guidance on setting up and using the scythes and to deliver a key for shed access. Creating these pathways will facilitate community access and support tree monitoring in the area.

Approximately half of this area has been effectively seeded and is currently flowering well, whereas the remaining portion appears to be only “wild seeded.” Michael Fletcher recommended mowing the sown section after seeding and removing as many flower heads as possible from the “wild” area promptly using scythes. Subsequently, green waste should be cleared from both areas; this task can be coordinated with the removal of green waste from the woodland area. The cutting and removal of green waste needs to be timed for when the flowers have set seed, and this is weather dependent, so it was agreed to have a further meeting on site sometime in July to set a definite date for this.

Working parties:

- a. Roisin Murray reported that three of the larger trees planted by the developers are leaning over since the over-tight bindings were cut. Roisin Murray has offered to re-tie these with a looser arrangement this weekend. This needs to be loose so that some swaying occurs which stimulates the trees to put out roots in a manner that stabilises the trees and makes them stronger.
- b. **Communications:** Roisin Murray will post a list of planted trees and update the public on wildflower efforts to clarify the area's condition. An article summarising progress will also appear in Miscellanea.
- c. **Volunteers:** Increasing the number of regular volunteers would be highly beneficial. Michael Fletcher had proposed organising regular gatherings that include refreshments alongside scheduled tasks to encourage consistent participation. This suggestion warrants further consideration. It was suggested reserving the Church Rooms on a monthly basis or holding meetings at Café Verde, bearing in mind the associated setup costs.

4. Finance

The Clerk shared the budget v actual expenditure to committee members. It was encouraging to report that the first year was under budget.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting for the Wild and Wood Committee will be 26 September 2025 at 7pm held at Methodist Church Hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 20:13pm