



## Wild and Wood Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday 19 September 2025 at 7pm  
Methodist Church Hall, Dereham Road

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Committee members present: Roisin Murray (Chair), Hazel Goodall, Martin Goodrum, David Piper  
Parish Clerk: Anita Rose  
District Councillor: Not present  
County Councillor: Not present  
Members of Public: 0

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### 1. Apologies

Cllr Frosdick had sent his apologies.

### 2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2025

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

### 3. Matters arising from the last meeting

Roisin Murray will provide a detailed list of tree species planted and add this information to the notice board.

Roisin Murray and Hazel Goodall noted that local community members were active during the recent drought in supplying water for young trees and assisting their survival. It was agreed that working parties will continue to be promoted via social media and notice boards, as this approach has shown positive engagement.

### 4. Progress update

#### 4.1. Woodland

To date 25% of whips in the woodland have not survived, a result attributed to drought conditions. All fruit trees remain healthy. The Clerk was requested to monitor future donations of whips from The Woodland Trust or other organisations to replace those lost.

The long-grassed areas between tree clusters have been cut, and the collected cuttings must now be removed. Roisin Murray will consult with Lloyd Frosdick and Chris Bingham about depositing these cuttings on the farm. If this is not feasible, an alternative would be to create a wildlife-friendly community compost area within the fenced Orchard.

#### 4.2. Wildflower Meadow

The Wildflower Meadow has been cut twice this year after sowing to manage weed growth, particularly creeping thistles, charlock, common chickweed, and fat hen.

Prior to preparing the wildflower meadow, the grass was treated and the soil turned over. This process reactivated dormant weed seeds, so a management program has now been implemented based on a proposed schedule from Chris Bingham.

Chris Bingham has also offered to perform another cut of the wildflower meadow free of charge in 2025 before winter.

In spring 2026, around April or May depending on weather and growth, cutting should start every two weeks as conditions allow. The first cut should be as low as possible, progressively increasing if weeds are suppressed, to promote strong establishment of fine grasses and wildflowers. Cutting will continue until mid-June, after which the area will be left to develop naturally. In early to mid-September 2026, one or two additional cuts may be performed, based on the sward height before winter.

Management will be reviewed in spring 2027 and a new proposal scheduled as needed.

Each cut in 2026 is projected to cost £80, totalling £640 for eight cuts, including removal of the cuttings to decrease soil fertility and encourage wildflower growth.

#### **4.3. Orchard**

Two trees in the fenced Orchard appear to have died. Wildflower seed in this area appears to have had limited success, possibly due to insufficient seed coverage. Roisin Murray reported the receipt of a donation of four kilos of mixed wildflower seed, which may support further seeding in this area. Appreciation was extended to those who assisted with the grass cutting.

To support the development of wildflowers, the committee agreed to purchase yellow rattle seed to reduce the weeds in preparation for further wildflower seeding.

Roisin Murray will prepare a Management Plan for the Open Spaces working group and draft an article for the Miscellanea outlining the progress at Kingfisher's.

### **5. Finance**

#### **5.1. Expenditure vs Budget**

The Clerk provided committee members with an update on budget v actual expenditure. As of 2025/26, £2240.53 of £8425.30 has been spent. Projected expenditure for the year ending 2025/26 stands at £575.48.

#### **5.2. Draft budget 2026/27**

The following items require pricing for inclusion in the 2026/27 budget:

1. Woodland: Danish oil, tree bark, tree wax, benches (pre-existing budget item), soil improver, water (3500 litres), grass cutting around clusters - Roisin Murray to obtain quotations.
2. Wildflower Meadow: 8 x £80 meadow cuts = £640.
3. Orchard: Cost of ground levelling – Roisin Murray to obtain quotations.

**6. Next meeting**

The next meeting for the Wild and Wood Committee will be 20 November 2025 at 7pm held at Methodist Church Hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 20:11pm