



# Mattishall Parish Council

Wild and Woodland Committee meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Time:** 7 – 9.30pm

**Place:** Methodist Church Hall, 37a Dereham Road, Mattishall NR20 3NL

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Present: Cllr R Murray (Chair), Cllr D Piper, Mrs H. Goodall, Cllr L. Frostdick

1. Apologies for absence: Parish Clerk, A. Rose and Cllr. M Goodrum
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were APPROVED
3. Matters arising from the last committee meeting: The postholes have been filled in and there is no longer an issue with them.
4. Updates were received on the following

#### 4.1. The Woodland:

Tree survival rates: The whips seem to be doing quite well with a loss of another 4 and we have lost 1 larger Spindle Tree but with the current drought we do need to call a watering party, which the Chair will do for Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 11.30 a.m.

The cloud cuttings around the trees now needs cutting around the whips. Cllr Frostdick will be doing this as soon as his work shifts allow. Any cuttings from this area (but not the wildflower meadow) can be mounded up and used as insect areas – the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) do this in their gardens so we can too – it will need communicating to the public that we are not simply dumping waste: This information will be added to the article for Miscellanea.

Bench locations and types: PROPOSED: The siting of the two park benches, one disability access picnic bench, and the relocation of the picnic bench currently at Burgh Lane allotments was discussed. There will be one park bench opposite the attenuation pond and one at the Old Hall Lane end of the Wildflower Meadow, with the accessible picnic bench sited on the edge of the open space on the side nearest Dereham Road (these are now shown on the Parish On-Line map). The relocated bench from the Allotments at Burgh Lane will be sited in the Community Orchard area, to allow for a seated space for peace and reflection, in accordance with our Mindful Village intentions. All four site locations were unanimously **APPROVED**.

The placement and securing of benches were discussed and the conclusion was that the benches could be fixed securely without needing large concrete plinths. Anchoring could be achieved by making holes to align with benches, which would be filled with mixed postcrete then a short length of scaffold pole set into the hole against which the seats

would be bolted. This work should be within the scope of our current handyman, reducing the need to seek other contractors – and giving the seating an adequate level of protection against theft and vandalism. This method was unanimously **APPROVED**.

Purchase of benches: The committee considered the most economic options as follows:

Recycled plastic benches:

Tansley Wheelchair access bench (also accommodates pushchair users). Price ex. VAT £616 plus anchor kit £27.80. Total: **£643.80**

Re-located bench – no cost but fixing kit **£27.80**

2 x Dale Bench (4-seater park bench style) each £515 plus fixing kit £27.80 Total: **£1085.60**

**Total cost:** £1757.20 LESS £450 donation from Mr and Mrs Bodiam for one bench (price of bench when we first scoped them), so new total is **£1307.20**

As this figure was within the original budget for seating the **AGREED ACTION** is to instruct the Parish Clerk to purchase the benches. ACTION Cllr Piper will liaise with the handyman regarding fixings and moving of the picnic bench at Burgh Lane.

Cutting plans: The contractor is continuing to cut the open area. We discussed the strip wildflower planting alongside the first houses – this was sown by the developer but as it hadn't been managed there is now more grass than wildflowers. It was agreed that for this year volunteers would cut this area back and we would return it to grassland, focussing our efforts on the wildflower meadow, with the intention of adding this area to be cut to next year's contract for standard cutting.

4.2 The Wildflower Meadow: Two work parties cleared the invasive thistle plants and these were disposed of, with permission of the farmer, Mr Gogle, on the track leading to the farm field behind the allotments.

The meadow now has quite a lot of flowers in it – Cllr. Frosdick will liaise with the farmer, Mr Bingham on when this will need cutting (which will be when flowers are seeded).

4.3 The Orchard, adjacent to Allotments:

The grass is very high in this area, but there are some wildflowers growing and there is evidence that the yellow rattle is in there in small quantities but this is normal and each year should see the grass weaken and the yellow rattle get stronger until there is no more grass for it to predate at which point it dies out. This will be made clear in the Miscellanea article.

5. Finance: No update presented.

6. To confirm the date of the next meeting: 29 July 2026