Wild and Wood Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 29th July 2026 at 7pm
Methodist Church Hall, Dereham Road

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

1. **Apologies**
   Apologies were received and accepted for L Frosdick.

2. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2026**
   The minutes of the meeting were unanimously **APPROVED** without amendment and signed by the Chair.

3. **Matters arising from the last meeting**
   Three benches have now been installed at the Community Woodland.

4. **Progress update**
   4.1. Woodland
   The Woodland Committee held four further volunteer watering sessions this season on the following dates:
   26th and 31st May, 26th June and 24th July, using 2,355 litres of water in total.
   A further 14 whips were lost, although a good number remain. It was agreed that watering the woodland has become a significant task, particularly during the current drought and with fewer volunteers available. The Committee agreed to stop watering, review the position in autumn, assess the losses and apply to the Woodland Trust for replacements if required.

   The older trees are also showing some signs of stress, which is common during drought conditions. Their survival will be reviewed next spring.

   Cllr Goodrum declared a personal interest in item 4.2 and will not take part in any vote on this item.

   4.2. Wildflower Meadow
   The meadow has flourished this year despite the weather. As part of the review of improvements to the wildflower meadow, Cllr Murray met with Mr Karl Jermy, a specialist in scything and rewilding who was introduced by Cllr Goodrum. Cllr Murray explained that Mr Jermy recommends cutting the meadow with scythes rather than machinery, as this is the most sustainable approach and helps preserve its natural beauty and biodiversity.

Signed:

The Committee unanimously **AGREED** to appoint Mr Karl Jermy to cut the wildflower meadow in September at a cost of £450 plus mileage, although the mileage rate is still to be agreed. The Clerk advised that this decision depends on confirmation of Mr Bingham's status. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Frosdick to understand the existing contract with him and whether any changes would arise if the Council withdraws from the agreed works.

4.3. Orchard

The orchard contains more wildflowers than is immediately apparent but has suffered from poor planting from the outset. It was unanimously **AGREED** to purchase additional yellow rattle seed. Cllr Goodrum will liaise with Mr Karl Jermy to confirm the quantity required.

It was also **AGREED** to move the picnic bench, currently at the Burgh Lane allotments, into this area in September once the wildflowers have been cut.

4.4. General

The Committee reported that the benches are in place but noted a safety concern: the externally fitted brackets have left a screw exposed. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Mr Edwards to make the area safe.

Cllr Murray had asked Mr and Mrs Bodiam whether they would like to take part in an opening ceremony for the bench they donated, and they welcomed the idea. This would be a suitable thank you and provide positive publicity for the Parish Council.

The noticeboard has now been fully repaired and repainted.

5. Expenditure vs Budget

The Clerk reported that, since the last committee meeting, only one further purchase had been made: benches costing £1,265.51. To date, actual expenditure for 2026/27 is £1,265.61 against a budget of £6,232.72.

6. Disbandment of committee

It was unanimously **AGREED** to disband the Committee with immediate effect, subject to approval by the full Council. Maintenance responsibility for the Kingfishers land will transfer to the Open Spaces Working Group, and full financial responsibility will return to the full Council.

The Chair closed the meeting at 19:56pm

Signed: