

Golcar Lily Environment Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August 2016

Present:- Betty, Sue, Nor, Maureen, Marion Stevens, Stephanie, Susan, Marion Hall, Lionel

Apologies:- Apologies were received from Matt

Minutes and matters arising: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a true record. There were no matters arising.

Feedback from meeting with Andy Wickham, Kirklees Council 18th July

MS gave feedback for her meeting with Andy Wickham. Matt and Jan Ellis were also present for parts of the meeting.

Andy's role is to work with community groups on environmental plans for specific areas which include Golcar. As he is unfamiliar with the area he was taken to see specific parts of Golcar in which the environment group may have an interest, i.e a selection of ginnels (cleared and uncleared), the library garden, the recreation ground, the garden opposite the museum.

Andy advised that in order to get help with insurance (12 months cover) and provision of tools we needed to register with Natural Kirklees, an offshoot of Environment Kirklees. He explained that these were not yet fully operational but should be within the next few weeks.

MS had visited the website for natural Kirklees and a number of issues had arisen which were discussed with the group as follows.

It was agreed that from a list of interests we are required to tick on the application form the most appropriate were Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces, Wildlife and Diversity. There was concern that the ginnels would not be covered by any of these headings, particularly in relation to insurance cover and this needed further exploration.

Action point:- MS to discuss further with Andy.

It was agreed that the primary contact on the form would be Marion Stevens.

MS had discussed links to Twitter and Facebook with ME and was awaiting a response before completing the form.

The Legal structure was discussed as there were a number of options. It was felt that "Unincorporated Group" seemed the most appropriate from the list provided although we needed to check exactly what that covered. For the bank account we are registered as a community club.

Action Point:- MS to check exact meaning of Unincorporated Group.

Management Plan

Andy had explained that one of his roles was to work with local groups to form a management plan for areas they wished to work on which belonged to Kirklees who are keen for the community to take ownership.

Each site would have its own plan, the purpose of which is to:-

Identify all the legislation and policies which will govern both the process and the outcomes of management;

Share decision making and share ideas with all interested parties;

Collate all relevant information about a site and its features and identify and confirm all important wildlife and natural resources;

Identify important cultural, historic, archaeological, religious features and develop objectives for these;

Identify range of facilities/opportunities that a site will provide for visitors and identify monitoring and surveillance programmes.

Having talked through various ideas with Andy he felt that there shouldn't be any issues and we should e-mail him with what we want to do. Susan cautioned that some years ago the museum group had asked about removing a tree but had been refused permission and that we should ensure if any work was to go ahead there that full permissions had been sought from the relevant departments within the Authority. Andy had been unable to find out at this stage which department was responsible for this land. She also intimated that the museum group had given back any responsibility for that piece of land to the LA and would not be interested in it in the future.

Permissions from the Parks Department would be needed for any work on the recreation ground.

Rubbish collection

Andy stated that there was no help for rubbish collection although he agreed that this was something that needed to be raised as an issue with Kirklees. He stated that it may be possible to arrange provision of a skip for a large project and he would speak to the community rangers about picking up bags of rubbish from designated spots but could not guarantee this would be approved.

It was suggested that if anyone was unable to help with clearance/gardening work on work days. that they could contribute by picking up bags in their cars and taking them to a designated spot. This would need organising in advance.

Grants

A discussion about grants had taken place. Andy said that if we set up as a group on Outlook they can let us know if any suitable grants are available. It is not part of his role to help with funding applications. It was also noted that the Rural District Committee has funds for small things. Michael Watson, councillor, Chair and Julie McDowell is the co-ordinator.

Ginnels

Andy may be able to give some general pointers for the Adopt a Ginnel scheme e.g. H & S do's and don'ts but it was up to the environment group to seek any required funding. Andy could help with printing of A4 leaflets up to 100 copies.

A further date for ginnel clearance was agreed. This was 24th September at 2.0p.m. To meet at Golcar Parish Church. Priority will be given to Ginnels 2 and 5.

Use of weed killer

It was felt that there would be no problems with the use of Glyphosate as long as it was on a small scale. No funds are available for the purchase of weed killer.

Permission to prune if bushes from private property are growing into ginnels

Normal law would apply, i.e. pruning is acceptable if the prunings are returned to owner. Common courtesy dictates that owner's permission is sought in advance. In some instances permission may be required from the Conservation Department.

Bins

Painting of bins shouldn't present any problems but again there are no funds for paint. Susan had previously written to Golcar Winkle Club to ask if they would be prepared to paint the bins but had received no acknowledgement. She will try again. Susan has also mentioned dog waste bins to the local councillor. These can only be put up in places where the road sweeper has access and there are very limited funds. The request for funding will go the next committee meeting for bins at Tintern Avenue and Manor Road.

Plants

It was suggested that an approach to Newbank garden centre might be worthwhile to see if they would contribute any plants for community use.

Action point:- Lionel to approach them with the idea.

Any other business

If the group want a stall at the Xmas fair Catherine Sykes needs to be informed.

Nor has checked with the C-op and they are happy to have a tree on their land. Susan will talk to Hilary to check if the LA will provide the tree and Lionel will look at prices for an 8 foot tree in case we need to purchase ourselves.

Bank account

This is in the process of being opened and should take about 2 weeks.

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 13th September at 7.30p.m. at Betty's house. **NB This a change to the original date.**