

Minutes of Meeting Thursday 21st January 2010

Present

Bruce Graham (Chair), Gail Alexander, Wilf Simcox

Apologies for absence

Lizzie, Nick D, Rosie, Sue, Margaret, Nick E, Martin, Ruby, Michael, Maureen, David

Last task

December's litter pick and pillbox inspection was considered a great success. Although no report has been compiled, several photographs were taken and have since been posted on the website. The pillbox on the railway line was chosen as most appropriate for a bat hibernacula conversion ...

Bat Report

Gail reported on the information gathered to date on pillbox conversion:

Neil Catchpole – Dedham Vale project

Richard Parmice – Colne Stour Valleys project

Richard Sharpe – Orwell Country Park. This was not successful due to poor construction of tiles and entrance hole, and general location of pillbox.

Sue Hootan – County Ecologist, Suffolk County Council

Action: Gail to compile a dossier of information, websites, contacts, etc.

Bruce reported that he has a wooden bat house which could be erected inside the pillbox – there would be no need to install bat-bricks and rafters. A possible site visit at one of the above converted pillboxes was suggested.

Wilf knows of a bat expert or is that batman! – **Action: Wilf to make contact and maybe suggest a visit to come and see us.**

Next task

Due to the recent 'snowy' weather conditions and more specifically the frozen ground, this month's task to replace the sleeper bridges on Nuns Walk is postponed till February - Saturday 19 February at 10.30am. The work will involve digging out of the old sleepers and making ready the positions for the two new bridges – the bridges are to be reposition slightly to follow the line of the recently raised section of footpath. HCC are to saw the existing bridges in half in advance. The old sleepers are to act as a base at each end, on which four new sleepers will be fastened for each bridge. Finally, chicken wire will be stapled to make the bridges slip-proof.

BTCV to give 10 minute talk for the Greener Living Learning Project.

Action: Bruce to order materials and make arrangements with HCC.

Biodiversity

It was reported that 2010 is International Year of Biodiversity.

Worthys Nature Watch

The new Nature Watch web site was approved. It is hoped the wider community will get involved, but there is a need to do some publicity. **Action: to be discussed at next meeting.**

Tree & Bird Surveys

Wilf distributed two recent surveys he had undertaken during 2009. Suggested columns to add are: locality, dates, highlighted information, etc. A database or spreadsheet should be created and posted on the website. **Action: Bruce to investigate means of setting up database.**

Together these surveys, along with the Nature Watch, Butterfly Surveys, Wildflower Surveys, Hedgerow Survey and future surveys can form a naturescape or nature character statement. **Action: to be discussed at next meeting when more members are present.**

DSNR Footpath/Habitat

It was suggested that we should do more to improve wildlife and nature on the disused DSNR line, such as planting a trees suitable to the chalky landscape, and increasing the number of glades, etc. The old railway line acts as a natural corridor for wildlife which we should look to improve on.

Action: Bruce to generate a point plan of ideas for discussion at next meeting.

Any other business

None.

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 11th February 2010 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Council Meeting Room of the Community Centre.

Future activities

Saturday 20 th February 2010	Nuns Walk, we will replace the sleeper bridges, plus Kings Worthy Primary School pond clearance.
Sunday 21 st March 2010	DNSR footpath/habitat improvements
Sunday 18 th April 2010	DNSR footpath/habitat improvements