

NOTES OF HOLME PARK QUARRY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WED 9th MAR 2011 AT THE CLAWTHORPE HALL
BUSINESS CENTRE

Present: Judy Palmer (JP), Reg Hesketh (RH), Dan Jackson (DJ), Steve Rigby (SR), Peter Smith (PS), Kathryn Smith (KS), Kath Unsworth.

1. Apologies and Minutes of the Last Meeting. Apologies had been received from, Ann Dale and Tony Wood. The minutes of the meeting held on 13th Oct 10 were accepted.

2. Matters Arising. SR reported that progress on classifying the Quarry as a Biodiversity site was on hold at the moment but would hopefully continue when various non related issues were resolved.

The suggestion to introduce seedlings such as knapweed into the LNR had been considered contentious because of the issue of importing a species not naturally occurring in the reserve. However, JP advised that if this was done in a controlled way by spreading seeds from locally growing plants and into an area suitable for their growth, this might be acceptable. She suggested that the deeper soil of the North West corner might be suitable for this and that the other suitable species would be true bird's foot trefoil.

3. Health and Safety. A new H&S sign had been placed at the LNR entrance and a copy would be held on the H&S file. Additionally, the quarry would look into replacing some of the blast warning signs on the fence between the LNR and the Quarry. **SR**

A draft H&S Policy statement was submitted and apart from the addition of an extra paragraph to cover the need for periodic checks of the LNR to be made and recorded, was accepted. **KS**

4. Website and Promotional Activities (<http://naturereserve.burtonweb.org.uk>.)

RH would put the Butterfly Report for 2010 on the website and KS would include the H&S file and Management Committee meeting notes. **RH/KS**

RH had other suggestions to increase the interest and content of the site. These included more albums (a monthly summary, one for flowers, one for butterflies and perhaps one for showing change or progressed work in the reserve). More over, there was nothing on the 'News' page and although no immediate ideas sprang to mind for this entry it could be used for significant events. The website could also be used to help recruit new volunteers and committee members. A further suggestion was to create more photographs by involving the Holme Photographic Society. RH would approach the Society with a suggestion of holding a competition in the reserve. **RH**

5. Reserve Activities up to Mar 11. Timberwolf had raked bracken, done some general maintenance and cut a ride through the south west corner to enable easier transit for butterflies. Committee members commented that due to gaps in the fence, deer had been seen in the reserve. It was generally considered that no attempt should be made to 'proof' the fence as this could result in deer being trapped and that it was nice to have the occasional deer in the LNR and for them to be seen by visitors.

6. Proposed Work Programme Mar 11 to Oct 11. Scrub on the bund still needed removing and the lowest branches removing from some trees to avoid too much shading but there was concern about encroaching into the nesting period. JP agreed that it would be just

acceptable to do this work carefully during the next week PS would arrange for Timberwolf to do this work and to repair some of the directional fingerposts at the same time. PS

The decision whether to complete bracken bashing this summer would be taken later in the season when the effects of previous years' work could be assessed. PS/RH

JP also commented that at the point where the signed path should take a right turn towards the 'classroom' area, it looked like visitors were continuing straight ahead towards a disused set of steps. This could be because there was a gap in vegetation at that point, the missing finger posts and the enticing, but misleading, steps. JP therefore asked if the redundant steps up the bund could be removed by the Quarry. It was also decided that the tree guards on the trees on the bund should be removed. SR agreed to do get these tasks done. SR

7. Terms of Reference and Management Plan Issues: JP submitted a revised paragraph to the TORs covering the resolution of disputes. The procedure would now conform to the Section 106 agreement which gave the County Council final authority in the event of a conflict but with a duty to have regard for the views of the Committee. This amendment was accepted and the secretary would issue the final version to committee members. KS

The unresolved issues concerning the Management Plan had been addressed by the Chairman and the document would be amended accordingly. All committee members were asked to **review the current Plan and make any suggestions for change to JP by 30th Apr 11.** ALL

At the same time JP would investigate the possibility of simplifying the format of the MP to make it easier to amend. If this was possible the new issue would cover the next ten years ie 2011 - 2021, thereby incorporating the initial agreed planning period for the Quarry. JP

In accordance with the MP the Reserve Manager was asked to compile an Annual Report for Apr 2010 to Mar 2011 to be published on the website. PS

8. Any Other Business It was noted by the committee that 2011 was the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the Holme Park Quarry Local Nature Reserve. This landmark should at least be published on the website and the proposed Photo competition could be linked to this anniversary.

It had been drawn to the attention of the Chairman that the planning agreement detailed the removal of the bund at the cessation of quarrying activities. The committee considered that it would be preferable to leave the bund in situ. To lay a marker for this change JP would write to the Quarry Manager detailing the position taken by the committee JP

9. Date and Location of Next Meetings. The next meeting would be held on Wed 12th Oct 2011 at 4.00pm in the Clawthorpe Hall Business Centre. KS

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