



Friends of Gilcrest Wood and Meadow

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

On site 18/02/2024

**Present:** Teo Greenstreet (Chair), Richard McQuinn (Treasurer), John White, Fran Allen, Pete Walpole, Joe Walpole, Ollie Walpole, Helen Walpole and Matt Coster (Council Ranger)

**Apologies:**

1. **The minutes of the 2022 AGM** were received

2. **Matters arising**

All considered in the Activity review and planning

3. **Chairs Report For the period April 2022 to March 2023 and April 2023 to March 2024**

1. **Workdays**

20 Workdays took place on the following days:

2022

- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July
- Sun Sept 4<sup>th</sup> AGM
- Sun Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Sun Oct 30<sup>th</sup>
- Sun Nov 27<sup>th</sup>
- Sun Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Jolly Holy – wreath making.

2023

- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March
- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July

- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December Jolly Holly wreath making 2024
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Attendance numbers have been stable of between 3 and 8 people and occasionally larger groups. Fliers were distributed in April and September 2022 and January and September 2023.

## **2. Activity**

Jolly Holly has continued to be popular. Snowy in December 2022 so very popular with over 20 wreaths made a number of new attendees and young people. December 2023 was incredibly wet and credit to the wreath makers who stuck with it – 10 wreaths made and wreath making material left out for others to take away.

The meadow was cut and scarified in both autumn 2022 and 2023 to continue its development as a wild meadow. It was cut at a number of levels to test the most effective cutting regime in 2022 and this showed in 2023 particularly in the Crimicar lane entrance that the very low cut produced significantly more varied growth. More sowing of Yellow rattle were made – a heartening sign of the meadow developing.

IN Spring 2022 a deadwood hedge was constructed along the path across the field and extended over 2023.

Bluebell monitoring continues with images of 2022 and 2023 bluebell spread showing take up of areas where holly has been cleared.

Work continued on clearing the glade area near to the top path clearing much holly of different sizes and allowing the more ancient Hawthorns to grow back and revealed a number of small Yews.

The Civil site development is now complete though abandoned materials are still an issue, see below.

## **3. The following Matters arising, actions and items from the site walk round were noted:**

- a. A badger issue relating no 19 and 23 Canterbury Ave has been raised with Matt who is liaising with John Gilpin about possible actions.
- b. Mowing regime continuing: annual mow and scarifying to weaken richness of soil to promote wildflower meadow development: noted some return of Yellow Rattle – “the meadow maker” as a sign of development. We will maintain some amenity use at the top end of the field away from the we land area.
- c. Carried forward: Considered oak at the top of the field for evidence as a veteran/ancient oak. Consider talking to ecology team to get ring data and assess.
- d. The large holly beyond the fruit trees is dying back and is being monitoring.
- e. Pond to be dug to be less ephemeral, as areas. this will involve large digging gear on site, subject to Matt receiving training.
- f. Also noted that lower part of the steps path is showing signs of wear and may need revetment
- g. At the bluebell area noted the success of the holly cut back 2 years ago. Need to continue to cut back holly across bluebell area and towards bilberry area and investigate potential of moving fallen tree across the bank
- h. Noted need to clear the bird boxes this autumn
- i. Continue to monitor protected trees on the boundary to new development – particularly for limbs being removed. Teo reminded people that should anyone spot a tree being taken down near the top path the TPO map is on the web site and can be used to check against.

- j. boundary around location of former electricity transformer now clear, it is along the line of the footpath side of the concrete that the substation was mounted on. Encourage neighbours to complain to planning about remaining building development materials.
- k. Matt to remind Highways of broken flagstone on steep steps to Canterbury crescent
- l. Noted progress of whips planted on new build boundary
- m. Group to monitor Larch trees for Remoram disease: brown needles in spring, weeping pores or sap
- n. Revetment needed on nursery footpath to redirect stream to a soak away
- o. Noted success of holly clearance in central area and need to continue and include Laurels.
- p. Identified Heras fencing needs taking off site when Matt has a vehicle for the job.
- q. Noted need to cut back Laurels on Castlewood side of woods in liaison with occupants.
- r. New plan for planting whips along path where deadwood hedge for future head laying. Possible fundraise through SW LAC or Woodland Trust
- s. **Major path works needed: wood chip laying need all along aprox 80 yards by 1 yard. Agreed a path laying and picnic event at April work day Sat 13<sup>th</sup> April**
- t. Fruit tree pruning scheduled for November

Our appreciation for Sheffield City Council rangers, particularly to Matt Coster was noted by Teo and seconded by Richard (and all).

- 4. **Treasurer's Report** (Presented by Richard and accepted by Teo)  
See the bank account transactions and balance for the year attached. Richard explained that there had been no movement in funds since April 2022 with an opening balance of £1636 and a closing balance of £1638 at Feb 2024. Teo presented costs for web site and flier printing which all agreed Richard to re-imburse
- 5. **Election of Management Committee**  
Invitation to join the committee was made at the meeting or through email to [fogwam@gmial.com](mailto:fogwam@gmial.com). Teo Greenstreet (Chair) Richard McQuinn (Treasure and John White agreed to re-elected to the committee.
- 6. **A.O.B**  
No further business and the Meeting Closed

Teo Greenstreet, chair February 2024