

WOODLAND PARK TRUSTEES

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020



Trustees: Eric Reed, David Chun, Rachel and Steve Porter

The Woodland Park is a four-acre site of ancient woodland situated at the rear of the *Fox and Hounds*, within the Old Bursledon Conservation and Special Policy Areas and between Hungerford, School Road and Pilands Wood. It is a charity formed to conserve and improve the Woodland Park for public benefit. It is currently managed by Trustees appointed by Bursledon Rights of Way and Amenities Preservation Group and confirmed at AGMs.

Despite the current Covid-19 restrictions, the Trustees have continued to meet quarterly as a group to work on the site and to progress the actions determined at the AGM. In March, they were pleased to welcome and co-opt Steve and Rachel Porter, new owners of an adjoining property, as Trustees.

The 7 Trustees have undertaken the actions agreed at the 2019 AGM. Special thanks are due to

- David Chun, Hon Treasurer, for transferring charity funds to Lloyds Bank; handling the Annual Return to the Charity Commission; initiating and negotiating the new Woodland Park Management Plan through the Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust.
- David Lennox, Chair, and Vice-Chair, Eric Reed, for organising work on improvements to the site, notably drainage, fallen trees and access paths and bridges. Other work has included removal of invasive plants, stream clearance, regular monitoring of the site and collection and removal of litter.

Notes of quarterly Trustee meetings are attached. Meetings are usually in two parts: implementing the work programme on site, followed by a business meeting if required.

Diane Andrewes

Hon. Secretary

WOODLAND PARK TRUST
NOTES OF 2020 TRUSTEE MEETINGS

[1] MARCH 1 2020

Location: Fox & Hounds

Present: David Lennox (in the chair), David Chun, Diane Andrewes, Eric Reed, Tony Osmond, Steve Porter, Rachel Porter

1 APOLOGIES: None

2 MINUTES OF DECEMBER MEETING - agreed

3 MATTERS ARISING:

- 3.1 TRUSTEES: Steve and Rachel Porter elected unanimously to fill vacancies
- 3.2 BANK MANDATE: Bank accepted 3 officers: Chair, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary
- 3.3 CHARITY COMMISSION: David Chun agreed to complete required annual returns
- 3.4 AGM (JANUARY 11): 5 Trustees elected, 4 Officers elected, Annual Report and Accounts accepted
- 3.5 OVERHANGING OAK – attempts to contact local tree surgeon failed.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM AGM

- 4.1 SURVEY/MANAGEMENT PLAN – David Chun had approached Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust and the acceptance of a quotation of £450 (flexible) for the work was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously. David to continue negotiations.
- 4.2 LOCATION OF WOODLAND PARK IN OLD BURSLEDON CONSERVATION AREA- a letter on file from EBC confirmed this, pending the adoption of the new Local Plan.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

- 5.1 LLOYDS BANK – account transferred. Cheques to be signed by two of three mandate officers.
- 5.2 CHARITY COMMISSION – Financial reports being prepared. Agreed that the former financial year, i.e. June to June. be retained.

6 MORNING ACTIVITIES:

Litter clearance, digging out ditches for drainage, clearance of stream under bridge to enable free-flowing water, clearance of vegetation on board walk, diverted path around fallen oaks, wheelbarrow rescued, photographs taken.

7 A.O.B.

- 7.1 WEBSITE – Steve Porter agreed to reinstate. Appreciation of Andrew Chesshire's service as webmaster was recorded.
- 7.2 TREE WORKS – David Lennox to arrange date for clearance
- 7.3 INVOLVEMENT OF NEW TRUSTEES - welcomed.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Sunday June 7 2020

The meeting closed at 11.30am

[2] JULY 27 2020

Location: Fox & Hounds

Present: David Lennox; Eric Reed; Rachel Porter; Steve Porter; David Chun

Apologies: Diane Andrewes; Tony Osmond

Next meeting: 6th September 2020, 10 am, Fox and Hounds car park. This will be one of the agreed quarterly management sessions

1. Purpose of meeting

To view the woodland and discuss the recommendations made by Arcadia in their report about it.¹

2 Discussion

The contents of the report were generally welcomed as being informative and in identifying for the group a number of practical steps that could now be taken to improve wildlife in the woodland. It was agreed that David Chun would ask Carmen Green, who wrote the report, to clarify a couple of points:

Para. 3.3 and Table 2. Should the glade area be mowed this autumn, with further mowings in the spring and late autumn of each year?	DWC
Section 3.4. Would a practical way of allowing more light to get on to the water be to cut selectively the line of trees and coppice stools nearest to the stream?	DWC

2. Works

Based on the report, and the physical inspection of the wood, it was agreed following jobs would, subject to any further rules on social distancing being put in place, be carried out during the autumn and early winter of this year:

<u>Invasive species</u> Given the Group's financial constraints, it was felt that members of the Group could tackle the Japanese knotweed problem, and the feasibility of this would be investigated.	David Lennox and Eric Reed
<u>Eastern bank of stream</u> Subject to obtaining further clarification from Carmen Green at Arcadian (see above), to start coppicing or re-coppicing the first line of trees/coppice stools on the eastern bank of the stream, to allow in light, as recommended at paragraph 3.4 and in Table 2 of the Report.	All

¹ Green, C. (2020) *Woodland Management Advice; Woodland Park, Bursledon* Arcadian Ecology & Consulting Ltd, Curdridge

<p><u>Glade area</u></p> <p>Subject to obtaining further clarification from Carmen Green at Arcadian (see above), mow the glade area and start cutting back the overhanging branches, as well as removing encroaching trees and shrubs. If mowing the whole area was not feasible, the drainage ditch running across the glade should be strimmed, to assist in clearing it out during the winter.</p>	All
<p><u>Fallen trees on path</u></p> <p>Given the financial constraints of the Group's finances, it was decided to leave the fallen tree across the path leading to the northernmost of the two bridges, it being noted that the obstruction had been successfully overcome by the creation of a new path around the fallen trees.</p>	-
<p><u>Cherry laurel etc</u></p> <p>A start would be made on the removal of any Rhododendron and cherry laurel near the paths. Any holly encroaching paths would also be cut back.</p>	All
<p><u>Bridges</u></p> <p>The northernmost bridge (Bridge A) is largely intact, but has no hand rails. It was decided that it would not be practicable to replace these, but the damaged slats should be replaced and chicken wire affixed across the whole bridge. The southernmost bridge (Bridge B) is also largely intact but parts of the handrail are missing and should be replaced.</p>	David Lennox and Eric Reed

The meeting concluded at about 11.30 am.

[3] September 6 2020

Present: David Chun Eric Reed Steve and Rachel Porter

Apologies: David Lennox Diane Andrewes

1 Activities:

- 1 Work started to clear half of the glade - the grass is very matted and very difficult to cut. That needs to be completed.
- 2 Eric started to dig out the drainage ditch across the glade.
- 3 Other overhanging branches across paths have been cut back, as well as some of the branches overhanging the glade.

2 Proposed tasks for next meeting:

- 1 Complete cutting of glade grass.
- 2 Collect larger branches to form a log pile as suggested in Management Plan (pages 9-10) for stag beetles.

3 Decide Date for AGM – provisionally, December 5

4 Dates of next meetings: October 25 2020 (extra) December 5 2020 (scheduled)

[4] OCTOBER 25 2020

Fox & Hounds

PRESENT: Eric Reed David Chun Steve Porter Rachel Porter Diane Andrewes

1 Apologies: David Lennox

2 Activity – limited because of early heavy rain and hail stones

- i Litter pick
- ii Glade clearance
- iii Ditch excavation
- iv Photographs

3 Date of next meeting: December 5 10am

It was provisionally agreed that the 2020 AGM would be held prior to work on the Park in the car park of the Fox and Hounds, unless new restrictions were introduced and that BROWAPG members would be invited to attend and view progress in the Park.

Confirmation and further information to follow.

P.S.

Eric and I attacked the Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam. The afternoon session was very successful and we were able to remove nearly all of it.

However, we spotted a patch near the stream, but could not get to it as it was on the other side of a fence line near the end of the park to the Fox & Hounds. Eric thought this ground might belong to the house to the south of the F&H, but maybe we can check and let them know it's there. It was also incredibly hot! I took some pics of our before and after so we can keep these and monitor our success or otherwise of its removal.

Many thanks as always to Eric for his great support.

David Lennox