

Minutes of the 22nd Staveley Nature Reserve Liaison Group meeting held in Staveley and Copgrove Village Hall on March 13th 2018

1. Group members present

Dorothy Griffin (Chairman)	Ken Barker
Kevin Atkinson (Parish Council)	John Thornton
Laura Watson (YWT)	Margaret Stringer

Apologies were received from:

Bill Kirkpatrick

2. Observers

Five village residents were present as observers.

3. Minutes of the last meeting of 7.11 2017.

These were accepted as an accurate record of the last meeting.

4. Registration of interest in today's proceedings.

LW, DG, JT and MS registered their interest as members of YWT.

5. Matters arising from previous meeting.

(a) Workshops and courses

DG has met the 2 new events co-ordinators – Sam Haward and Janet Anderson. The first 2 events – “Wellbeing and Mindfulness” and a “Guided Walk” have been advertised in the YWT magazine. The full list of planned and suggested courses will be forwarded to Group Members.
Action: DG

Rebecca Jackson, village resident observer, offered to volunteer on the Reserve.
Action: LW

(b) Royal Oak parking

KA confirmed that this is no longer available as overflow parking

(c) RSPB silhouette transfers.

BK has ordered these for attaching to the glass of the bus shelter on the Green.

(d) Direction signs in Reserve for car park.

A new map has been installed directing visitors clearly to car park.

(e) Funding for paths and possible improvement of disabled access.

A bid to Allerton Park Fund for these has failed. LW is awaiting news of a further bid to Nature Partnership. The Church Hide ramp needs replacing and is taking precedence in funding bids. There is also a need for re-gravelling of the car park.

(f) Notices in Reserve re dogs

Adverts in the Link and Knaresborough Post include notices re dogs. LW said YWT has been rethinking their approach to this and signs in future may explain why dogs should be kept on the lead – including information as to how dog excrement can contaminate land for cows and wildlife.

There was information from a villager that he had done some studies in Cornwall whereby spraying piles of poo with paint, thus highlighting their presence, seemed to have reduced the rate of fouling in the area. LW to look into this!

Action: LW

6. YWT progress report

See above. The Harrogate Volunteers have received planning permission for a storage facility and the area has been prepared. The “shipping container” is on its way.

A new notice board has been put up near the car park entrance with information about the community orchard.

7. Chairman’s report

The meeting discussed a possible time and day change but Tuesday evenings seemed the most convenient for the majority.

8. Parish Council report

KA gave feedback on the PC’s response to the HBC Draft Local Plan and LW confirmed that Sara Robin has YWT’s response in hand. This is based on objections to the inadequate size of the planned green space for dog walkers and the sewage pipes suggestion (running across YWT land).

9. YWT future plans for SNR

LW commented on repairing paths, the ramp to the Church Hide, more events, and the storage facility - all as above. The willow spiling along the banks of the Tutt is to be replaced as it has not been adequately done and there was a suggestion that further spiling, downstream from the present work (where the river opens out into a shallower area), could benefit the flood defences.

10. Overflow car parking

There was a discussion again about the difficulties of parking when the Reserve is busy. The Village Hall Committee will be approached again, parking with an honesty box was suggested. For YWT to re-apply for planning permission to extend the car park there would need to be funds available and an assurance that the complications of objections would not pertain.
Action: DG

11. Staveley residents’ walk

LW happy to lead a walk on Tuesday, June 12th, starting at 7.00pm from the Church Hide. A walk including the meadow was suggested. Emails to Staveley Ladies and notices on the board and in the Link would be made.
Action: LW, DG and MS

12. Wildflower planting with school

LW, Janet Anderson and DG will liaise with school to continue this annual event. A Tuesday in April is the preferred date.

LW mentioned the art work for children in the Hide. She has purchased a washing line and pegs to display the work.
Action: LW and DG

13. Future events in the area.

24th June – Staveley Stampede. Route goes through Reserve.
Action: BK

12th May – sponsored walk in memory of Paul Walters will go through part of the Reserve.

14. Communication with the parish.

LW requested that anyone seeing the effects of human impact on the Reserve should communicate with Sara Robin, accompanied by photos if possible.

15. AOB

Dave Child spoke at the beginning of the meeting. He reported that the recent snow and rain has led to water backing up Tanner Beck. He has been in contact with the Swale and Ure Drainage Board and NYCC re flooding on the roads. LW said the S and U Board is responsible for clearing the culverts on the Reserve. KA reported that he had cleared the screens near the playing field. This had helped release backed-up water and there had been activity behind the Village Hall – possibly by HBC. DG said field ditches near the railway line had been cleared by a neighbour and flooding of the road near her averted this year.

KB reported that he had had problems with his sewerage system, with water backing up. KA wondered if the tank by the road was blocked or if higher water table levels were affecting drainage.

Michael North raised the question of the flooding of the fields adjacent to the Reserve and the saturated state of the footpath next to his field – denying clear access to the Reserve. There was a full discussion of this problem. MN has monitored this since YWT has been seasonally adjusting the water levels in the lagoons and believes that the level in the lagoons in winter affects the surrounding drainage patterns, inhibiting freer drainage. Plans had been considered to dig a drainage channel between the flooded path area and the West Lagoon to facilitate drainage but the cost of this has proved to be prohibitive. MN asked that the YWT consider dropping the water levels in the winter to ascertain if this would help with the flooding problems. He pointed out that it is illegal to cause flooding on neighbouring land. LW said she would discuss this with her seniors and with Natural England who were involved in the early stages of the plans for the Reserve.
Action: LW.

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Church Hide on July 24th 2018 at 7.00pm.