



[For Environment and Community](#)

## **Core Team Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Apologies:** Isabelle Garnett, Steve Glen, George Smid, Ben Coulthard

**Present:** Kate Moss (Chair), Anna Stockley (Secretary), Mike Henchy (Treasurer), Mark Ayres, Charles Tomalin, Lisenka Klompenhouwer, Peter de Voil

### **Food Group**

- Mini Allotments:
  - All mini-plots are occupied.
  - A new mower is needed. Lisenka recommended a battery mower, she has the go ahead to spend £250 – 300. Lisenka will coordinate charging and safe storage of battery.
  - Of the 4 sheds only 1 is worth keeping long term. Lisenka suggested a work party early autumn to pull apart the knackered sheds. Volunteers will be needed.
  - Solar panels at the allotments: **Lisenka** will research getting someone in to advise. Would need to be a specialist in remote solar panel installation, such as those on caravans/boats.
- Community Orchard: not much going on, get update from **Kirk** for next meeting.

### **Transport Group**

- Bikefix: First session of the year will be on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 10-12 on corner of Forest Approach and Wood Road. Fin Coulthard will be joining the team, as part of his DofE.
- Bike racks – **Kate** to ask Guy Varty in the spring.

### **Energy Group**

- Steve is now coordinating use of our thermal calendar. 6 people have used it since our last meeting, and there are 4 people in the queue, so it's getting a fair bit of use. Feedback is that it's easy to use, and useful in showing up small areas of heat leakage that can be addressed cheaply, e.g. bottom of doors. Steve now has a log book, that includes simple instructions and a waiver. **Mark** to talk to **Steve** about putting something on our website.
- Solar Group Purchase Scheme – possible event in the future.

## Tree Planting

- Anna offered up around 35 trees on FB, and they have all been taken. Result!
- There will be some tree planting up at KCA on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March from 3pm. Queens Canopy?
- Apparently, Kier has a fund to enable planting of trees next to highways. They do the whole job! **Anna** to investigate whether we might be eligible for some of that, for example along Forest Approach.

## Wildplaces

**Charles** is now an officer: TKC Wildplaces Co-ordinator.

It's our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!!!

Did you know – TKC Wildplaces started in April 2015, so we are celebrating our 10 years of volunteering for the environment and the community this month with a special work party... Read on!

We started with the twin objectives of managing our environment for biodiversity, and enabling access to our wild places for the community. Since we began, over 150 people have been involved in our work parties! We planted 450 trees and an acre of wildflower meadow on the village field to establish the wildlife corridor. We created the ponds and wildlife area on Maltings Green. We had a major role in the biodiversity planning of Millennium Wood, Kings Cliffe Meadow, the Common and KCA. We also, of course, cleared and created the 2-mile railway path from Wood Lane to Second Drift – a five year project on its own!

We continue to directly manage many of these areas for the community, with clearance work, coppicing, planting, and scything the meadow every year. We work with other local and national wildlife groups, and survey and record the wonderful biodiversity in the area, including the adders and other reptiles, dormice, butterflies, glow worms and the amazing flora on our doorstep.

To mark our first ten years, and with the support of the Parish Council, this month we will be taking on the Horsewater, behind the church. We will be clearing the pond of reeds, and removing the brambles to lay a path around the side for access to the river behind.

We'll be starting on site at **09.30 on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April**, working through the morning, before retiring to the Cross Keys for refreshment and reminiscence at lunchtime!

**Everyone is welcome.** We are particularly keen for anyone who has been involved with Wildplaces in any way over the last 10 years to come and celebrate with us on this major work party.

If you have waders, or scrub bashing equipment, then please bring them along.

We will also need additional secateurs, and loppers,  
Otherwise our usual mantra of decent gloves and proper footwear applies...

Its particularly important that we know how many are coming, both for safety reasons, and also so we can warn the pub of likely numbers. So please let Charles Tomalin know directly via email – [kcwildplaces@gmail.com](mailto:kcwildplaces@gmail.com) – if you are coming along to help the work party, to join us at lunch, or indeed both!!

It was commented that a couple of wildlife cameras might be helpful to record wildlife events. **Mark** to talk to Charles.

## Parish Council - Village Field

- Since the Cricket was voted in NNC planning have said that a deed of variation is required for anything other than Cricket on the VF. This has been done for the Football, and the resultant planning application has proven very contentious, mainly because Football is seen as a lot more impacting and we have plenty of pitches already. There are 22 public comments at the time of writing, 11 for and 11 against. So clearly this is not something the entire village wants. Watch this space!
- PC elections are on 1st May 2025, deadline for applications 1<sup>st</sup> April. We have 1 possibly 2 new candidates. Let's all try and get out and vote on 1<sup>st</sup> May! **All**

## Finance

- Any ideas for projects? **All**
- Received a financial update from Mike. We have £5,523 in the bank. Mike commented that he had heard that Community Direct accounts shouldn't have more than £5K in the bank, however we have identified a number of items that need to be purchased for current/future projects. For example, allotment lawnmower, banners, projector stand for events, projector for events including film showings, wildlife cameras.

## Communications

- Facebook page ticking along nicely – please continue to post and share on relevant topics - **ALL**. Be careful about which posts you approve from others, make sure you follow the rules and ethos of the page. If in doubt don't approve.
- Website. **Charles** to review Wildplaces content. More content needed to get BLOG going – photos of events etc. **All**
- £2-300 for banner agreed, one general and one for bikefix – **Mark/Kate** to present design to group. This cannot happen until we get some good photos from various sub-groups. Please send some quality photos of your subgroup to Mark or Kate, preferably via email – **All**
- Not everyone is in WhatsApp group so use email for important comms. **All**

- Mark has put a process in place to send emails to our Members list. If you would like to do so, please send the email to Mark and ask him to send it out. The members email address should no longer be used. **All**

## Events

- We have agreed a date for this year's Green Gardening (GG) talks: Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> from 12.30 until 4.40pm. Schedule as follows:
  - ❖ 12.30 – 1pm: Guests arrive. Serve refreshment. Introduce talks at around 12.55.
  - ❖ 1-1.45pm: Nick Bailey will talk about his GWLive garden. A plant-based garden, wholly sustainability focused with no plastic, steel, concrete, or glass. Will include selling some plants leftover from the build. 30min talk with 15 minutes for questions and introducing plant sale.
  - ❖ 1.45-2.30pm: Mark Ayres will talk about sustainable drainage, in particular rain gardens. This talk will include some recommendations for planting rain gardens (plants need to be both drought and flood resistant). Incorporate 10 minutes for questions at the end.
  - ❖ 2.30-3pm: Break for refreshments and chat.
  - ❖ 3-3.30pm: Ben & Joe from Aquascape, a leading provider of ponds. They have been involved in some big projects (including at Chelsea?), however they are interested in smaller projects that are environmentally sound, so that will be their focus. Ties in nicely with sustainable drainage.
  - ❖ 3.30-4.15pm: TBC. We're still looking for a speaker for this slot, enquiries in progress.
  - ❖ 4.15-4.30pm: Wrap-up.

We have agreed that the ticket price will remain at £10. The upper community room at KCA has been booked from 11.30am, it would be great if all volunteers could be up there to help set up. Provision of cakes/refreshments etc. will be discussed closer to the time, but hopefully plenty of people will be up for a bit of baking! **Kate** to ensure a mention in the May gazette, and again in June. Plus other promo channels. And posters.

- We have asked both Gareth (RHS gardener) and Sheila & Mark Grout (KC 'The Good Life') whether they can do talks, but they're not available this year. Both have agreed to do talks next year potentially.
- Other ideas for future talks include Adders by Ian Froggatt, NNC Restoring Nature strategy.
- Another idea for a talk, maybe later next year early Autumn? Around Home Energy success stories. Anna? Bob Gamble?

## Organisational Stuff

We confirmed that we should use of TKC rather than the word Transition – **All**. Use TKC as an umbrella word, so sub-projects become, for example, TKC Wildplaces, TKC Orchard, TKC Allotments, TKC Events, TKC Trees, TKC Energy Group, and so on.

Leaders of each sub-group would need to attend at least one core group meeting a year, more if necessary.

Officers (and relevant others) will meet 4 times a year to review overall status and go through administration stuff. Then ad-hoc meetings could just focus on individual projects as necessary, as is happening with TKC Wildplaces now.

The Secretary is no longer responsible for submitting our article for the gazette each month. Instead, submit your individual entries to Jo: [gazette@kingscliffe.church](mailto:gazette@kingscliffe.church). Make sure you mention that it's to be included in the TKC article.

To reduce workload for our Secretary, it was agreed that we would take it in turns being the minute-taker and writing them up/sending them out. Generally, we use the last set of minutes as the agenda for the next meeting.

## **AOB**

During our meeting we were approached by Mel Peel, who told us that she won't be renewing her lease on the Pytchell from next Jan. As we already manage the Community Orchard down there, and we have an interest in maintaining wild spaces, she wondered whether we would like to talk to the PC about taking it on. The lease currently costs £10/year. Mel can't predict when they will move, but she's happy to help with maintenance until they leave. She says when they do the hens/chickens will go with them. Can we do much while they're still there? **Kate** to talk to Kirk about this, to see what his view is. Is this something we want to take on, and which subgroup?

**Next meeting** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm, venue TBD.