

Ashover Tree Group

Summary Minutes of meeting: 12 July 2018

The Minutes of last meeting on 17 May 2018 were agreed with actions carried forward as follows:

1. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

1.1 Our plans to re-survey NEDCC's TPO plans (with their blessing), have been described in previous Minutes.

1.2 NEDCC provided us with CD records of their latest TPO records from we have hard copies. There is a need to validate these as the plans and schedules don't marry up in every case – some have one and not the other.

1.3 We are progressing the extrapolation of TPO data onto A4 size maps of the parish.

1.4 Noted that there may be local trees in the parish, currently lacking TPO protection, which might be suitable for nomination. We have details of the process to follow.

2. Expert input

Currently no speakers lined up for future meetings but we can review this later in the year.

3. Planning applications

Planning applications. Status of current, relevant, applications is as follows:

3.1 The hydro: pruning of a giant redwood proposed. Confirmed we had no objection

3.2 Ravensnest – Butterley. Rumoured there has been an application to remove bushes/hedges (3 x hawthorns?) Unclear whether there are obligations to report such intentions. Need to monitor for any formal applications. No developments.

4. Milltown conservation area

This initiative arose from a possible future planning application which could have an impact on both trees and archaeology. A group walkabout took place on 24 May to form views. A proposal for future submission to NEDCC is being developed with input comprising:

- plans/maps
- an historic overview of the area
- archaeology
- flowers and fauna
- footpaths and rights of way through the area. Noted that the access status of Back Lane is under formal review with a recommendation it become a bridleway

Once consultations with other land owners have been completed we will draw in the final boundaries on the map of the proposed conservation area and insert locations of existing TPO protected trees

The Tree Warden will provide a summary of outputs from the above which the secretary will then turn into a proposal for submission to NEDDC, copying the Parish Council.

When drawing up the proposal we will cross-refer to the conservation element of the Neighbourhood Plan as well as ensuring we have clarity of ownership of those parcels of land falling within the proposed conservation boundary.

5. Member reports for the areas they represent around Ashover.

Highboredish. Nothing to report.

Ashover Show-ground.

The Tree Warden has used a map of the Show field to plot what's there at the moment showing the types of tree and their current condition. Alongside the tree survey report this will help us shape a

proposal for the land-owner and the Show Committee on what a programme of additional planting might look like. See also Item 6 below regarding WW1 Commemoration.

Kelstedge. Nothing to report.

Fabrick. Bracken was sprayed with weed killer on 10 July.

Great Eastern Plantation. Nothing to report.

Milltown. See section 4 above.

6. Tree planting

We have a selection of tree saplings, recently supplemented by whips from the Fabrick available for re-planting around the parish, especially on Common Land.

7. Working party

Thursday morning working parties, around 10.00 – 12.00 continue. Current focus is limited to brash clearance on the slopes above Demonsdale though limited progress due to the recent exceptionally hot weather.

Working party activity will extend to cover other parcels of common land once our review is complete. See 9 below.

8. 2018 centenary marking the end of WW1

Suggested that next year's anniversary could perhaps be celebrated in the village by the planting of a tree(s) accompanied by a suitable plaque. This was raised with the Parish Council and we have been asked to progress this as a project.

Tentative proposal: A screen of trees, perhaps poplars, running along the fence-line from the Black Swan towards the Fabrick. The secretary has written to the Ashover Show committee, asking for their approval, hopefully with a financial contribution. Their response is awaited.

Quoted costings: £50 per tree, 6 ft high, single stem. Planted cost, by professionals, including erected protection for the trees would be £350 for 3 trees so for the optimum 10 trees we will need a budget of approx. £1,250. Therefore, even if the Parish Council provide the £500 we asked for then additional funding from elsewhere will be required. Other organisations – WI?

Engagement with School. Initial contact made and they would like to work with us.

Next steps. The secretary to provide an update to the Parish Council for their meeting on 17 July, offering to attend in person.

9. Common Land.

Maps and supporting schedules from the Parish Council have been put together.

We will now visit each, draw up profiles, identifying those suitable for tidy-up by the working party.

8. AOB

None

Date of next meeting: 7.30, Thursday, 19 July 2018.

ATG/MT/13.7.18