

## Notes of Bainton and Ashton Nature Recovery Meeting

### 24/11/2023 By Zoom

1. Present: Cliff Stanton, Julie Stanton, Hilary Smith, Martin Lucas  
Apologies: Susie Lucas, Irene Walsh
2. The notes of the previous meeting on 20/10/2023 were agreed.
3. New JCC Structure. It was felt that this is a very helpful document and that publicising it in the villages would help residents to better understand the vision, aims, breadth, and mode of operation of John Clare Countryside. Cliff agreed to ask Susie if this document is ready for making public, and to look into how this could be done. **ACTION:** Cliff
4. Various ongoing and potential projects for 2024 were discussed. These will be brought to the Cluster Group Meeting with Laura Osborne 5/12/2023:

#### ONGOING PROJECTS:

- **Ongoing management of Bainton and Ashton village verges.**  
Management plan needed; Julie and Cliff to draft; ask Laura if she would review the draft and provide professional input if needed. **ACTION:** Julie and Cliff
- **Ongoing management of Bainton Green Road CWS.**  
Liaison is currently underway between B&A PC and Darren Sharpe, Natural and Historic Environment Manager at PCC in regards to future grass cutting. Arrangements will need to accommodate additional management tasks to keep maintain and enhance biodiversity – see draft management plan – **ACTION:** Cliff. Support from Laura if needed.
- **Highfield Road CWS.** Liaison between B&A PC and PCC re parking damage is ongoing. A conversation could be had with Rowan Rumball, PCC Wildlife Officer overseeing the CWSs, to inform him of the recent damage to these verges.

#### NEW PROJECTS and NEW PHASES OF EXISTING PROJECTS:

- Possible bid for **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fund for Nature grant** for local community/ parish Nature Recovery projects – Laura suggesting Ashton Meadows and Hedges CWS. Possibility to extend to other areas of paddocks around the villages and link to grants for creation of ponds. It was agreed at the meeting to explore this further with Laura at the Cluster Group meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> December. **ACTION:** All
- Support for Gary Alderson in ongoing management of churchyard for biodiversity.

- Great Crested Newts have been using the Sheepwash this year and Water Voles have used the Washdyke over many years. Potential for a project to maintain and improve the area for these endangered species.
- Updated and Improved information boards for Sheepwash area. It would be good to have a large information lectern to a professional standard presenting info about the Sheepwash in historical context, acknowledging the grants for replacement fences, nature recovery, local wildlife etc. **ACTION:** all, look into options and how it could be funded.
- Anything else – Adding wildflowers in Ashton in the areas near the village sign. This has previously been discussed, although not at this meeting.

We want to talk with Laura about progress and the action plan for landowner engagement through JCC.

5. Activities/events/publicity for next year.  
Agreed that it would be helpful to produce a newsletter for residents early in 2024.  
Discussion on 'Events and activities' was carried forward to next meeting.
6. Any other business - none
7. Next meeting date – not set.