**Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting of Denby Dale Parish Environment Trust**

**Date:** Tuesday 28th November 2023 at 7.00pm

**Location:** Council Offices, Skelmanthorpe

**Present:** Jeremy Patterson (Chair) (JP)

David Wilde (Denby Dale Parish Council Countryside Officer) (DW)

Graham Coultish (Trustee) (GC)

Richard Brook (Parish Counciller) (RB)

Phil Slater (Treasurer and Trustee) (PSl)

Andy Wickham (Kirklees Council)

Peter Senior (Trustee) (PS)

Maxine Senior (Trustee – acting secretary) (MS)

Adam Johnson – (Apprentice with Denby Dale Parish Council Countryside Officer)

Polly Ann Flinders (Parish Counciller) (PF) – arrived at 7.40pm due to commitments to attend a Parish council meetings

**Apologies:** Craig Westwood ( Design Services and Trustee) (CW)

**Annual General Meeting**

**Chairman’s Report**

It has been business as usual. DDPET have dispensed a number of grants throughout the year. We have facilitated the project at Parkgate – work funded by a grant from Cummins Turbo for paths.

AW will be completing a report on the ongoing work.

Membership – JP advised that he had been in contact with Barry Brook (former secretary) unfortunately Barry will be unable to attend meetings due to health reasons for the foreseeable future. He was thanked for his work as secretary and trustee and it was hoped that he will be able to attend in the future.

Two new members – Maxine Senior and Peter Senior.

**Election Of Chair**

Jeremy Patterson - Proposed by: Phil Slater

Seconded by: Richard Brook

**Election of Trustees**

JP advised that historically this has continued unless any resignations have occurred.

**Election of Treasurer**

Phil Slater- Proposed by: Peter Senior

Seconded by: Jeremy Patterson

**Election of Secretary**

Maxine Senior- Proposed by: Phil Slater

Seconded by: Jeremy Patterson.

**Treasurers Report**

Refer to the ordinary meeting minutes.

**Ordinary Meeting**

**Minutes of Last Meeting (held 19.09.2023)**

Minutes of last meeting were agreed.

No matters arising

**Grant Applications**

None received

**Financial Report**

Current balance: £6579.30. ( After receiving grant of £6000 from Denby Dale Parish council and payments of: £400 Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome; £410 Upper Dearne Woodlands Conservation Group; £550 10 Villages Skelmanthorpe Community Orchard and £3332.42 to Kirklees re Parkgate Path Project – as noted from previous minutes, this money is due to be repaid as soon as possible)

Following request for greater details of grant approvals, MS and JP formulated a summary of grant approvals which was forward to the Parish Council. RB expressed their thanks for this.

**Action**

**MS** – to update grant approval form as necessary

**Parish Council Grant 2024/25**

RB reported that the Parish Council meeting held one week ago produced a draft budget but this is to be approved by the council. The report provided by DDPET was helpful to inform these discussions and inform new members of the Parish Council re the role of DDPET.

RB asked if the AGM for DDPET could be held in October so that reports would be available for the Parish Council’s budgeting purposes. PS stated that DDPET meet in September. As the grant approval form is to be updated on an ongoing basis this can be used to summarise the grants on an annual basis September to September. This information can be given to the Parish Council and therefore there is no need to change the AGM date. This was agreed.

Future funding requirements of DDPET had been discussed by the Parish Council and RB asked if DDPET required the current £6000 grant for the year 24/25. JP advised that the need for grants was likely to increase and therefore would like to continue at £6000. RB will support this and take this forward to the Parish Council.

**Countryside Management Project Report**

DW stated report sent to CW to be put on the website.

Adam Johnson continues to work as an apprentice and is doing well in this role.

200 volunteer hours were completed for October ’23, this number has been influenced by the availability of Adam.

Supported Plastic Free July – there has been a decrease in the use of the emergency dog bags used.

Participated in Ecofest events.

They continue to support schools in the Parish, 6 out of 12 schools have the Eco Flag.

**Japanese Knotweed**

RB stated that the Parish council had been approached by the Denby Dale Bowling and Cricket Club looking for advice on the funding for the eradication of Japanese Knotweed. They had had a private quote for £2000 regarding this – it was asked would this be something DDPET would fund? Work has to be completed over a 3 year period to ensure eradication. GC advised this involves use of glyphosate and must be used by trained and registered practitioners

DW advised that he was aware that Japanese Knotweed had been identified at this site . He has been looking into possible funding and had been advised to approach Yorkshire Wildlife Trust by the River Holme connection. He questioned if an improved quote may be sought. PSl advised that River Holme connections had worked with Natural Kirklees.

PSl advised that there has been a recently ended three year programme funded by Yorkshire Water after an application from the Environment Agency – stating flood relief benefits of removal.

GC – advised that there have been new government regulations regarding the riparian use of glyphosate.

**Action**

Plant is in winter dormancy PSl to seek further clarification and report back to the group

**Website**

JP advised that this is now up and working. DDPET has its own account. JP and CW have full access

**Correspondence**

None

**Any Other Business**

**None**

**Future Meeting Dates**

16th January 2023 at 7pm at Skelmanthorpe Council Offices