

KELSALE-CUM-CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL



Chairman: Cllr Alan Revell
Parish Clerk: Marie Backhouse
E-Mail: clerkkelsalepc@gmail.com www.kelsalecarlton.org.uk

39th Meeting of Kelsale-cum-Carlton Biodiversity Group 7pm on Monday 17 June 2024 The Cottages, Bridge Street, Kelsale, IP17 2PB

1. Welcome and apologies

Attending: Keith Dickerson (KD, Chair), Laura Gwynne (LG, notes), Jerry Bowdrey (JB), Jem Adams (JA), Chris Colchester (CCol), Martin Colchester (MC), David Edgerley (DE)

Apologies: Marie Adams (MA)

2. Notes and Actions from 38th meeting on 11 March 2024

The minutes of the 38th meeting were approved with no changes.

KD had submitted an article to the Spring edition of the KcC Community News about the BAP Group becoming an independent group and asking for volunteers to join the group.

Following the death of the platinum jubilee oak planted at the end of the Recreation Ground in 2022, the plaque had been moved to one of the other young oaks growing nearby.

KD and LG had enjoyed the visit to the Eels Foot pub in Eastbridge on 7 May for the inauguration of their new swift tower.

3. Biodiversity Action Plan

KD had updated the BAP to V4, adding an Executive Summary, Table of Figures and List of Recommendations. KD had presented V3 of the BAP to the PC on 29 May for their feedback and, at the request of the PC, had also added a series of boxes to explain how things like wildflower meadows and wildlife ponds could be created. KD had reduced the size of some of the figures so that the wish of the BAP Group to keep the final length of the document to 50 pages could be respected.

It was clarified that in Section 5 (Alien Species) Fig 71 is Giant Hogweed and Fig 72 is Himalayan Balsam. KD to update.

Action: KD

JB to complete the boxes on "How to Create a Wildflower Meadow" and How to Create a Wildlife Pond", italicize the Latin names and draft the Glossary.

Action: JB

KD to complete the boxes on "How to Plant and Grow a Natural Biodiverse Hedge" and "How to regulate the flow of river naturally".

Action: KD

CC and JB to add a box on birds of Suffolk.

Action: CC/JB

KD, MC and JB to complete the boxes on “Orchids in Kelsale-cum-Carlton” and “Grasses...”. **Action: KD/JB/MC**

KD and DE suggested that there were too many recommendations and that we should reduce the number and add more detail to those that remain. **Action: KD, DE**

KD to add the Word version of BAP V4 to Google Drive. **Action: KD**

JA to proofread and all to review V4 and propose any changes / additions. **Action: JA, All**

It was noted that any trees planted as a result of the recommendations in the BAP should be native species. **Action: KD**

It was noted that the River Fromus was among the habitats covered in Section 4. We have shared interests in the Fromus with Saxmundham so Amy Rayner and Laura Bonnet should be invited to our next meeting to discuss our recommendations. The BAP Group should also be present at the next Greener Sax event if one is held this Autumn. **Action: KD**

4. Kelsale-cum-Carlton Wildlife Group (KADWAG)

KD and JA had set up a Lloyds bank account in the name of “Kelsale and District Wildlife Action” (Sort Code: 30-99-50 Account No: 45258363). KD and JA are currently the only signatories but more are needed. JB offered to become a 3rd signatory on the account.

Action: KD, JB

The group discussed a draft constitution for KADWAG and preferred a modified form of the shorter version from the Charity Commission (see Annex). However, we decided not to formally create the group as a charity for the time being due to the extra work needed to register with and submit annual reports and accounts to the FCA. We should look further into the details of becoming a charity and answer the question: “is this a pressure group or a land owning group or both”? Everyone to comment. **Action: All**

We should request the following items from Richard Smith’s SCC budget of up to £300:

- An Ordinance Survey license so we can include OS maps in our publications.
- The cost of publishing the Biodiversity Action Plan document.
- Setting up a website for KADWAG.
- Access to Land Registry searches.

Action: KD

5. Biodiversity Surveys since last meeting

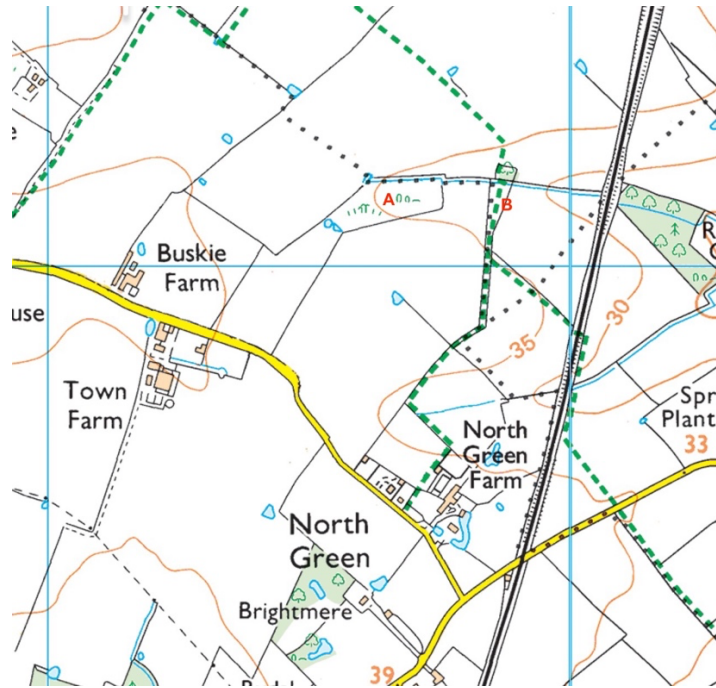
KD had visited the owner of Well Cottage, Sandy Lane asking for permission for the BAP Group to survey the woods behind it. This was initially given but KD had since received an email asking us to hold off for 6 months.

Nonsuch Farm: JB had not found any signs of Hornet Clear Wing Moths since the poplars along the railway line had been pollarded. JB to monitor. **Action: JB**

JA and KD had carried out an informal survey of Acorn Wood. It was noted that there had been a large increase in the numbers of orchids (~150) since the previous year, probably due to JA opening out the canopy in several places.

JB, KD and LG had carried out a survey of the pond at Buskie Farm on 14 June. JB to complete the species list and upload it to the sites register on Google Drive. **Action: JB**

It was noted that the trapezoidal area of the land (A) and the spong (B) on the map below were now owned by Andrew Haste (Aldeburgh?). It was also noted there was a ‘ghost pond’ on land originally owned by Mark Stewart further east along North Green. **Action: LG**



6. Wild About Kelsale-cum-Carlton event

LG introduced the possibility of a 'Wild About' event in Kelsale-cum-Carlton. The BAP group were enthusiastic about this and being part of it. Laura to set up and confirm back to the group.

Action: LG

MC offered to pot up some maples, oaks and walnuts ready for the event.

7. Is it practical to reintroduce Beavers in Kelsale-cum-Carlton?

It was noted that the first beavers (in 400 years) had been re-introduced to Suffolk assisted by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust at Little Haugh Hall near Bury St Edmunds (see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6pyrklnj23o>). Sam Hanks had been involved in the re-introduction and we should ask him to set up a visit for us to see the site and identify any lessons that could be learned.

Action: SH

The Management Committee of the Suffolk Flora Preservation Trust (SFPT) had accepted the idea in principle of introducing beavers to the Fromus Valley Reserve. However, they wanted a feasibility study to be carried out first identifying the benefits, drawbacks and costs (especially the costs of any fencing required).

Action: KD

KD and JA had introduced Prof Peter Hobson (Anglia Ruskin University) to the Fromus Reserve on 6 May. Peter will write a report looking at the feasibility of the Fromus Reserve to host beavers.

8. Report back to KcC Parish Council

LG will report back to the PC on 26 June and bring PC views to the next meeting. KD is also expecting PC views (coordinated by Claire Buttle) on our BAP following his presentation of V3 to the PC on 29 May.

Action: LG

9. AOB

Date of Next Meeting: Now set for 7pm on 16 September at Acorn Cottage with an optional tour of Acorn Wood at 6.30pm.