



WINDERMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Representing the interests of the communities of Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge

Minutes of Elleray Woods and Orrest Head Advisory Group meeting: 7th November 2018 at 5pm.

Present: Dr Helen Jones (Chair) Cllrs Adrian Legge, Lisa Greasley, Mike Stafford. Gary Hancox (Town Steward), Julie Hartley (Town Clerk)

Apologies: None

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th April were reviewed. Actions outstanding are covered on the agenda. It was agreed that the Clerk will upload recent minutes to the Council's website.

2. Planting of native daffodils:

The Clerk reported that 1,000 native bulbs had been planted around the walled garden on 30th October. This initiative was funded by the Civic Society and thanks go to them and to the Town Councils and Civic Society Members who turned out to help.

3. New area of woods for clearance - boundary issues:

The Town Steward reported the issue - that the boundary that had always been assumed with Elleray Bank does not agree with what is recorded by the Land Registry and the title shows that Town Council land extends beyond the natural wall into an area of more formal planting that is currently maintained by the Elleray Bank management company. Councillors and the Clerk had visited the site and were in agreement that the traditional boundary makes more sense, as there is a wall already in place and the rest of the boundary can easily be secured with a post and rail fence. If the Town Council were to insist on extending the traditional boundary, there would be a much higher cost of fencing and the need to consider additional maintenance of this area of woodland. It is appreciated that it is always a hard decision to give back land, but the Steward, Chair and Clerk strongly recommend discussions take place with Elleray Bank to correct the Land Registry entry to show the traditional boundary. This will enable Elleray Bank residents peaceful enjoyment of the area to continue, the Town Council can continue to carry out its positive management of the woodland area and its felling programme without taking on additional responsibilities of a quite manicured high maintenance area of informal garden.

Recommendation to Council:

Appreciating that this is a difficult decision, that the proposal to return a small parcel of land to the Elleray Woods Management Committee (which had always been assumed was theirs) be approved. If the Elleray Bank Management Committee agree to this, that the Clerk and Town Steward facilitate a new Land Registry entry. If legal advisors are needed in this process, THW, who have been appointed to work on the Longlands land transfer, should be employed.

4. Erosion on Footpath :

Cllr Greasley reported that the work done by the Town Steward to erect a small fence across the area of erosion has not fully dealt with the problem and proposed that Laurel is grown across the area as well, to make it more difficult to access. This was agreed.

5. Woodland Sculptures:

The “Gruffalo” sculpture that has been donated by Steve Hicks to the woods has been a great success and a draw particularly to young children. Steve Hicks has suggested having more models made of the Gruffalo characters and asked Town Council opinion on putting a receptacle on his gate to ask for public donations. The Clerk strongly recommended that this do not go ahead, as there are security implications. However, the Advisory Group felt that the idea itself is a good one and would welcome further figures and would support private sponsorship for this. Cllr Greasley agreed to look into this further and come forward with a proposal for Town Council, including, possibly, a proposal for Town Council to sponsor a figure.

6. Orchids area - strimming:

The Town Steward reported his plans to strim this area to allow for future growth. This was agreed by the group.

7. Leaflets

There was no further report on this, as the new leaflet should not be agreed until the carriage drive is complete. It was agreed to continue to use the existing leaflet and the Clerk agreed to obtain a further order of leaflets from Adrian Faulkner and pass them to the Town Steward to keep the receptacle full.

8. Any Other Business:

- a) Cllr Legge updated the group on his meeting with the LDNPA rangers (Dave Bell and Marion Jones), the SLDC land agent and tenant of land, Steve Hicks, re plans for the Carriage Drive restoration phase 2. Those present walked the proposed route and identified any issues. It is true to say that Steve Hicks does have reservations about the use of his land but Cllr Legge remains optimistic of the outcome. There is still no definite timetable, but the meeting was a good way of overcoming some of the issues and doubts.

9. Date for next meetings

Spring Site Visit: 10th April 2019 at 3pm

Meeting: 5th June at 5pm

Autumn Site Visit: 16th October 2019 at 3pm

Meeting: 13th November 2019 at 5pm

