

**MINUTES**

Present: Dave Evans – Vice Chair (DE), Stephen Parker (SP), Lottie McFarlane (LM), Martha Cattell (MC)

In attendance

Jennifer Hobson (JH) – Finance Administrator

1.	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Robert Peacock – Chair (RP), Paul Thompson (PT), Phil Kershaw (PK), Terry Smithson (TS), Subash Sharma (SS), Robert Weatherley (RW)</p> <p>Ian Horton (IH), Asher Haynes (AH) were absent from the meeting.</p>	
2.	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> None	
3.	<b>Minutes</b>	
(i)	<p><b>Minutes of meeting on 06 September 2022</b>            The minutes were AGREED as a true record.</p>	
(ii)	<b>Matters Arising not on the Agenda</b>	
	<p><b>HR Update</b>            Following the resignation of the Woodland Heritage Project Officer, the position was filled by Robert Weatherley (a previously interviewed candidate) who will start the role on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.            The necessary funders have been notified of this change of staff.            It was noted that at future meetings Robert Weatherley, being a board member, may have to be asked to leave the meeting room during any HR discussions as well as declare an interest wherever necessary.</p> <p><b>FSB Membership</b>            RWCE are still considering joining the FSB but no decision has yet been made.</p>	
(iii)	<b>Confirmation of Confidential items</b>	
	The Board agreed that there were no items on the agenda classed as confidential. The full minutes will now be posted on the website.	
4.	<b>Governance</b>	
(i)	<b>Policies</b>	
	No updates to record to any of the Board's policies at this time.	
5.	<b>Financial update</b>	
(i)	<b>Financial Statement – period ending Sep 22</b>	
	<p>A range of financial reports were presented to the board. No queries were raised.            The current overall balance is £87,897.29 as at 30/09/22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Unrestricted funds</i> – £18,809.89</li> <li>• <i>Branching Out (Sirius)</i> - £730.00</li> <li>• <i>FIPL (Working Woodland Heritage)</i> - £5,270.57</li> <li>• <i>Hey Smile Foundation</i> - £5,361.05</li> <li>• <i>National Lottery Platinum Jubilee (SWW)</i> - £17,550.35</li> <li>• <i>Helping Rivers Thrive (Yorkshire Water)</i> - £4,962.01</li> <li>• <i>Locality Budget</i> - £1,745.98</li> <li>• <i>Natural England</i> - £7,958.00</li> <li>• <i>Power to Change</i> – £24,009.44</li> <li>• <i>Power to Change Business Plan</i> - £0.00</li> <li>• <i>Power to Change Renewal Fund</i> – £1,500</li> </ul>	

<b>6.</b>	<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>				
<b>(i)</b>	<b>Anti-Social Behaviour</b>				
	In the absence of Robert Weatherley, Dave Evans was not aware of any recent anti-social behaviour issues but did report that there had been a spate of recent anti-social driving issues in the area.				
<b>7.</b>	<b>Property/Lease</b>				
<b>(i)</b>	<b>SBC/NYCC lease discussions</b>				
	SBC's interpretation of Derwent Angler's lease is a Sporting Lease and so they are only responsible for keeping tidy 3 feet from the riverbank. It is not a repairing lease. RP has asked for clarification over the footbridge at Old Man's Mouth as both parapets sit within the 3 feet, so who controls access rights across the bridge and who has structural responsibility. It is unclear how two organisations can have the same land in their lease. Awaiting a response from Derwent Anglers. SBC have no documentation re a sub lease with NYMNPA regarding the boardwalk and a 2 metre wide strip.				<b>RP</b>
<b>(ii)</b>	<b>SBC estate maintenance negotiations</b>				
	PT has accepted SBC's offer to provide emergency highway tree safety response via their tree team.				
<b>8.</b>	<b>Planning application land adjacent to Throxenby Mere</b>				
	SP and TS submitted an objection to this application. NYMNPA are unable to afford to purchase the land but are interested in the idea that the land could form a buffer to housing developments.				<b>TS/SP</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Business Development</b>				
<b>(i)</b>	<b>Timber Harvest 22/23</b>				
	The timber harvest is underway and is expected to be completed this week.				
<b>(ii)</b>	<b>Strategic Partnership Meeting</b>				
	There was support from across the organisations for an Upper Derwent rewilding scheme. NYMNPA also see the need for an Eastern/Scarborough presence.				<b>PT/TS</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Communications</b>				
<b>(i)</b>	<b>Media engagement</b>				
	<b>Communications channel</b>	<b>Nov-20</b>	<b>Sep-21</b>	<b>Sep-22</b>	
	Press release	2	1		
	Facebook (followers)	493	841	1429	
	Instagram (followers)	69	196	348	
<b>(ii)</b>	<b>Website/Social Media</b>				
	PT is currently engaging with Yorkshire in Business who have offered 4 supportive meetings. Upon completion RWCE will be awarded a £1,500 grant to help us develop the organisation. PT plans to use this money to appoint a consultant to write the content for the website refresh which will include the following pages: e-commerce functionality, corporate sponsorship and donations capability.				<b>PT</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Fund Raising</b>				
	PT has recently been developing relationships with strategic corporate partners to raise RWCE's profile and promote our vision for "a thriving community woodland and landscape, loved and valued by the community, and cared for by a financially sustainable membership-owned business." This has resulted in the following opportunities:				<b>ALL</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biovale Business Innovation support grant of £1,500 to be used on either video animations to promote our key messages or market research to help define whether timber sales or experiences/services will generate the most sustainable income stream for RWCE.</li> </ul>				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anglo American have agreed to fund a new Forestry Operative role for 6 months to enable RWCE to actively harvest timber and generate an income.</li> <li>Following the site visit by Anglo American, they also expressed an interest in a potential longer-term partnership with RWCE and asked RWCE to submit a proposal based around ambitious nature restoration. PT arranged a workshop with key partner organisations including Natural England, NYMNPA and Forestry Commission. RWCE then submitted a £250,000 project proposal to Anglo American's Positive Biodiversity Outcomes grant scheme.</li> <li>Natural England had offered a letter of support to the project as well as an offer of £5,000 match funding for the above project if it goes ahead.</li> </ul> <p>It was noted by all present that whilst this opportunity could provide a huge benefit to RWCE any grant offer would need to be considered from an ethical perspective by all members of the board.</p>		
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>DE reported that Mr P Wilson now owns Thorne Park Farm so RWCE would need to negotiate some rent for use of this site. DE/SP/PT/RP to meet with Mr P Wilson and report back.</p> <p>DE reported that there is a gate missing at Dog Bark car park. GA has been notified and is dealing with.</p>	<p><b>DE/SP/PT/ RP</b></p> <p><b>GA</b></p>	
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Dates of next meetings</b></p> <p>Dates for 2022 meetings as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="188 1093 646 1131"> <tr> <td>13 December 2022</td> </tr> </table>	13 December 2022	
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*All members of the Board are bound by the principle of Collective Responsibility. This means that whilst Board members are at liberty to express their individual points of view at Board meetings and are encouraged to engage in full and frank discussion, once a matter has been agreed, that decision is then owned by the Board. All Board members should present a united front outside of the meetings taking collective responsibility for that decision whether they personally agreed with it or not. Board members should not share with people outside of the Board the views expressed by individual Board members in discussions, or how they voted. Only the decision should be shared as recorded in the minutes.*