

Homersfield Parish Council

Homersfield Church Wood Meeting

Homersfield Black Swan

Monday 12th August 2024 at 6.00 pm

Councillors Present: Debbie Bird, Lynne Elliott and Angela Stokes

Clerk: Sally Chapman

Also Present: County Councillor Judy Cloke and six parishioners

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome from Debbie Bird – Homersfield Parish Council

Cllr Bird Chaired the meeting and gave everyone a warm welcome.

2. Apologies

Received from Lucy Hammond and Anthony Specia.

3. Church Wood Aims

After discussion, it was agreed that the aims should be:

1. To maintain and improve the woodland habitat.
2. To encourage people to appreciate, value, and enjoy the natural environment.
3. To help improve people's mental well-being.
4. To provide opportunities for people to get involved.

4. Homersfield's Tree Warden, Mark Timms to share Management Proposals from Cathy Smith – Wildlife Advisor and his Thoughts, Plans and Ideas for the Wood

Mark Timms gave some interesting suggestions for maintaining the wood, and his main comments were:

1. Replace dead trees with appropriate native species and a few honorary trees, such as sweet chestnut.
2. It's a very dry site, being on a hillside, which will always make it difficult to get trees established.
3. Make the slopes as natural as possible with oaks, hazel, witch elm, and hornbeam trees.
4. Regularly maintain the brambles, keeping the main paths 6-10 feet wide.
5. Many trees have been planted over the last few years, and topping-up should continue every year.
6. The woods have interesting wildlife, such as slow worms, glow worms, and antlions. Birds include Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps, Spotted Flycatchers, Nuthatches, Treecreepers, and Tawny Owls Nesting.
7. There are pepperpot mushrooms along the edge of the wood on the roadside, as well as other fungi.

5. Response, Questions, Suggestions and Offers to Help

No questions or offers to help were received.

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

Homersfield Parish Council

6. Drawing Plans Together and Date Setting

Various plans and ideas were discussed, and it was suggested:

1. Maintenance of the pathways to keep them clear.
2. Tree planting should continue.
3. Bird boxes and bat boxes should be installed.
4. Working parties should be held regularly, ideally once a month. The next one is scheduled for 28th September 2024, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

7. Church Wood Policy and Individual Responsibility Forms

No further changes were made to the Church Wood Policy, and Cllr Bird circulated the Wood Working Party Individual Responsibility forms.

8. Ideas for a Welcome Sign

A welcome sign was discussed, and generally, people preferred an information board style with:

1. A border featuring pictures, drawings, or pictograms of the flora and fauna that can be found in the wood.
2. Written details about the flora and fauna.
3. 'Rules' of the wood.
4. What3words location and telephone numbers to obtain the combination lock code.

Councillor Cloke kindly offered a grant to cover the cost of the sign/information board and the Clerk agreed to find some designs.

Action: Clerk

9. Any Further Suggestions

1. Combination locks on the gates, code access details on the new sign.
2. Sign at the main gate obscured - parishioners agreed to clear

The meeting ended at 6.55 pm

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____