

## WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

24 February 2020

**Commenced:** 10:30

**Terminated:** 11:30

**Present:** Councillor Robinson (Chair), Mr Gradwell (Vice Chair), Councillor Chadwick, Councillor Cooper, Mr Ainger, Mr Bell and Mrs Evans

**In Attendance:** Nicola Marshall Greenspace Development Manager  
David Cannon Greenspace Development Officer

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Bowden, Fitzpatrick and Kitchen

### 11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 12. MINUTES

**The minutes of the Werneth Low Country Park Joint Management Committee held on the 25 November 2019 were agreed as a correct record with the following:-**

**Councillor Chadwick be noted as present.**

### 13. GREENSPACE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of a Greenspace Officer, which updated members on the activities undertaken within the Country Park since the last meeting of the Joint Management Committee held on 25 November 2019.

The Greenspace Officer informed the Joint Management Committee that the resurfacing works for Lower Higham to Higher Higham, Higher Higham to Shepley's Meadow, Shepley's Meadow along Higham Lane and Quarry Car Park to New Piece Meadow had now been passed on to the Engineers Department at Tameside MBC for further development. It was reported that the Ash Cottage Picnic Area on Higham Lane had a walk through stile with a new wicket gate replaced by Tameside Operations Maintenance Team.

It was explained that in December £4,389 of grant income from the Environmental Stewardship High Level Agreement had been received. The payment in December was the final payment, which concluded the agreement between Natural England and the Tameside owned parts of Werneth Low Country Park.

Members of the Joint Management Committee were advised that a number of projects had been completed in relation to the management of the Lower Higham Visitor Centre. Inspection of building electrical hard wiring, annual PAT testing, portable electrical equipment and installation of new gas heaters had been completed and funded by Tameside Council.

Members discussed the management of land and of a path that had been over grazed. Members enquired on the options to prevent further damage or this occurring again in the future.

The projects list (Appendix 1) was outlined by the Greenspace Officer to the Committee.

Discussion ensued in relation to the Werneth Low Country Park Greenspace Volunteer Service. Members discussed the works completed by the volunteers and thanked them for their service.

The Greenspace Officer informed the Committee of the death of Mr Alan Bamforth, a Werneth Low Country Park volunteer since February 1988. The Committee heard how Alan was already well known locally as a volunteer in the Tame Valley Countryside Warden Service, which he joined in 1976. He was a gifted naturalist with specialist and extensive knowledge of wildflowers, fungi and mosses. As part of the public events programme, during his 32 year service at Werneth Low Country Park, along with his brother Norman, he organised and led the Flora Walks around Werneth Low. His archive of data on the wildflowers of the Low was second to none and an important environmental record that would be consulted by many in future years. He played an important role in the planting and conservation of many of the deciduous woodlands around the Park. Alan's infectious enthusiasm for plants and animals inspired all those around him. Alan was a great ambassador and advocate for Werneth Low and he would be greatly missed.

As a mark of respect, the committee was silent to remember Mr Alan Bamforth.

**RESOLVED**

**That the report be noted.**

**14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED**

**That the date of the next meeting be re arranged around the availability of Members and Officers.**