

# **Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of Suffolk Tree Warden Network DRAFT**

**Held online Zoom on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020.**

The meeting commenced at 7pm chaired by Frances Jannaway,  
Chair of the Suffolk Tree Warden Network.

## **Welcome and introduction from Frances Jannaway, Chair.**

Welcome to all those present. Some old and some new names and hopefully eventually faces!

## **Housekeeping rules for a Zoom meeting**

Your microphone and video will be turned off when you join the meeting. Richard (as host) will enable video and sound and then ask you to turn on your microphone and video when it's time for questions and voting. Details are in the notes you were sent with the login link.

This is the first time we have held a Zoom meeting with more than 8 people and we will do our best so please bear with us. We will try to make the AGM as interactive as possible.

Unfortunately, we have had to reschedule this AGM twice. In May when we had been planning to hold a live Forum & AGM as in past 2 years and then again in July mainly but not entirely due to Covid-19. This AGM will be very different to the Forums and AGMs held in 2018 and 2019.

After the AGM business has been completed, there will be time for feedback, questions, raising concerns and making suggestions. Jeannie Buckingham will give a short talk about setting up a tree nursery in Debenham.

Frances introduced the current committee: Frances Jannaway (chair/coordinator, Thornham Magna), Patti Seaward (secretary, Stowmarket), John Russell (treasurer, Elmswell), Jeannie Buckingham (Framsden), Mike Smith (Eye), Richard Jannaway (website manager, Thornham Magna) and Richard Frost (Resolutions Officer, Stowmarket).

Two other members of the committee, Steven Phipps and Simon Ambrose, were not present and had not responded to the invitation to attend.

Unfortunately, Mike Smith had to leave just before the AGM started as he had an emergency Zoom meeting with Eye Town Council. He introduced himself to those already present.

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

Patti read out the names of those who had given their apologies:

Rosie Blake, John Burges, Anders Linder, Edwin Van Ek, Colin Hawes, Jo Clifford,

Virginia Taylor, Alan Witherby, Judy Clements, Nick Eade. As already stated, Mike Smith attended the beginning but had to leave early.

## **2. Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Ufford Community Hall, Ufford, near Woodbridge.**

The Minutes of the 2019 AGM had been circulated to all STWs. As there were no questions about the Minutes, Patti asked the Meeting to approve them: Proposed by Alistair Graham Kerr and seconded by Jeannie Buckingham, and carried by the Membership without objection.

The minutes were duly signed by the Chair, Frances Jannaway.

## **3. Annual Report**

### ***Chair's report – full report included***

*It's the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tree Wardening scheme this year (September). Suffolk Tree Wardens have been 'working for the love of trees' for at least the last 30 years. I must mention two Tree Wardens who I know have been caring for trees in Suffolk for at least the last 30 years: Terry Peake, Wickham Market and David Flowerdew, Denham. Both Terry and David have sadly stepped down due to ill health. Both have been very supportive of STWN and attended most of our events if they could. Thank you to all tree wardens for all you have done and will continue to do caring for the trees of Suffolk.*

*My report covers the period since the last AGM on 25 April 2019 until end of September this year.*

*A lot has changed in these eighteen months. These are difficult times for us all but I hope we can adapt, seek opportunities and provide solutions rather than dwelling on the problems. We just have to do things differently.*

*Our aims for the future still remain the same as those I expressed at the 2019 AGM: "to up the profile of STWN with other organisations, local authorities and parish councils by supporting STWs and putting on several training events each year. To achieve this aim, STWN needs to work together with other bodies and organisations. We have already started the process of 'working together for trees, landscapes and communities'.*

*The following is a summary of tree related events which STWs organised or took part in up to March 2020.*

- STWN summer get together, Kali Wood, Holton near Halesworth, 28 July 2019. 20 Tw's from all over Suffolk (as far away as Sudbury) came to Rachel Kellet's delightful Kali Wood. Some stayed all day, some came for just the morning or afternoon and enjoyed a shared lunch. During a guided tour of the woods, we stopped for a while and had a lively discussion about TPO's!*
- **Tree Council Regional (East Anglian) Forum**, Reedham, Norfolk, 6 October. Very full programme with interesting speakers and news updates from The Tree Council. About 12 STWs attended. Unfortunately, it rained all*

day and we were unable to have the customary tree walk and when we left many roads were flooded – quite an adventure for some TWs.

- **Tree Pests and Diseases, Forestry Commission**, evening talk to Stowmarket Wildlife Trust group given by Sid Cooper, Stowupland, 30 October. Very informative. The main pests and diseases affecting East Anglia were described and also those not yet in the UK.
- **Woodland Communication Day**, Wantisden near Woodbridge, 19 December. Very informative day thanks to Gary Battell SCC for organising. Included talks by Forestry Commission, Natural England, Deer Initiative, Environmental Land Management (ELMS) update, Westacre Rewilding project and Firewood in 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- **Tree Health seminar** – Forestry Commission, Honington & Sapiston village hall, 12<sup>th</sup> March which several STWs attended.

Many more events were planned for 2020 but which had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 including **iTree canopy training** – Stowmarket Town Council, March, Tree Health talk and walk by Sid Cooper, Forestry Commission, March, Tree Warden conference, Welwyn Garden City, April and STWN Forum/AGM in May.

Lots of **Tree planting events** took place in Suffolk last winter. A good example of partnership working is the **Cow Pasture Lane hedgerow reinstatement, Mellis**

Cow Pasture Lane is an old drove road linking Thornham Magna with Mellis crossing into Norfolk and beyond. In the 1970's, a 250m section of the old hedgerow, including many very old trees, was removed on both sides of the lane. The late Roger Deakin, writer, environmental campaigner and naturalist who lived at one end of Cow Pasture Lane (Walnut Tree Farm) was instrumental in stopping the further removal of the hedgerow at the time.

On 30 November and 1 December 2019, more than 2,500 hedgerow trees and shrubs were planted on either side of the footpath south of the main railway line in Mellis to restore the missing section. More than 60 volunteers including Twos from all over Suffolk, local residents, district councillor and families with children took part. A great community event.

This hedgerow reinstatement was a project which Peter Holborn (previous secretary STWN) had instigated many years ago when working for SCC. I and other members of the STWN committee played a key part in bringing this project to fruition by getting the various partners together, including the landowner farmer, Woodland Trust (Edwin Van Ek), Suffolk County Council (Gary Battell) and local residents. The hedgerow reinstatement was funded by the Woodland Trust's More Hedges scheme with additional funding provided by SCC and coordinated by local residents including the current owner of Roger Deakin's property (Walnut Tree Farm). Roger would have been proud of what we achieved together. Photos on STWN website.

### **Tree and Hedgerow packs**

*Last winter, many of you planted trees and hedgerows thanks to the partnership working between STWN, Woodland Trust and SCC. More than 9,000 trees and hedgerow shrubs were provided which was double the number in 2018.*

*Last year the tree ordering system was very confusing and time consuming to keep track of. This year the tree and hedgerow pack ordering system is very different and is only open to Tree Wardens registered on the STWN website. Thanks go to Richard Jannaway for setting up the tree ordering system. In addition, the trees in the packs have been rationalised with less choice but which makes the packing up process easier. Please note there are no Small-leaved Limes in the tree packs as germination failed again this year.*

*For the tree planting season 2020-21, Edwin Van Ek (Woodland Trust outreach adviser) is able to offer STWN 90 tree packs of 50 trees amounting to 4,500 trees and guards/stakes plus 100 each of Silver Birch or Wild Service (5 trees) with each order **(4,700 trees)**. In addition, 2,500m of hedgerow shrubs and trees with spirals/canes can be ordered, amounting to **12,750 trees/shrubs**.*

*Total this year of: **17,450 trees and hedgerow shrubs**. Nearly double the number provided last year.*

*We have had orders for nearly all the hedgerow packs but there are still tree packs available so please order ASAP to avoid disappointment.*

*Edwin is also offering biodegradable spirals to trial so if you are interested please let me know.*

*The tree and hedgerow packs will be delivered to Stonham Aspal on 23 November with delivery to Tws by Edwin and Gary a few days later.*

*In addition, Edwin is also offering tree packs (max of 2 tree packs or 100 trees plus guards/stakes) to landowners in both Suffolk and Essex. These packs must be ordered directly from The Woodland Trust and NOT through STWN as last year.*

*Making up the tree and hedgerow packs is likely to be different this year due to Covid and social distance rules. I will keep you informed. Please be aware of the conditions attached to planting the trees such as: right tree right place, getting permission of landowner, carrying out risk assessment, Covid 19 social distancing, use of tools and qualified first aider. All this information can be found on our website. With all this planting going on I need to emphasise that: all Tws who carry out practical activities in their communities must be covered by public liability insurance.*

### **Public liability insurance**

*STWN is an independent tree warden network not coordinated by a local authority tree officer as in the past. Most Tws are appointed by their parish council and are hopefully covered by the PCs insurance for any activities the TW carries out such as tree planting, tree walks, surveys, seed gathering, etc. However, some Tws are appointed by STWN perhaps because the PC does not want to appoint a TW for whatever reason. These Tws also need to be covered as do Tws who are appointed by PC but do not have a precept so cannot cover their Tws.*

*The STWN committee are working to find out which Tws are covered by their PC and which STWN would need to cover and how we can do this. At present the*

STWN committee is covered by Zurich to hold meetings and give workshops, hold events and training. If you have any experience of public liability insurance, we would love to hear from you.

### **Workshops**

If you came to the Forum in 2019, you may remember Jon Stokes (The Tree Council) asking for a small number of tree wardens to help make the **Local Authority Ash Dieback toolkit** published by The Tree Council in February 2019 into a more accessible and practical toolkit for parishes.

This resulted in 3 workshops involving a group of STWs and The Tree Council (Jon Stokes and Harriet Rix) in Thornham Magna on **12 July (14 Tws) and 7 October (9 Tws) 2019, 16 January 2020 (13 Tws + Gary B)**. The main conclusion was to reduce the content and make it more reader friendly, design postcards and leaflets to be printed and distributed locally, and make Power Point presentations which could be given by Tws to parish councils and the general public.

STWs and Gary were involved designing the postcards specifically for Suffolk.

Several STWs gave trial presentations to PCs before lockdown in March.

The latest news today is that the ADB toolkit for parishes will be available in early spring. Many apologies for the delay from TTC.

The Tree Council has another **Ash Dieback toolkit for tree owners** on their website published in June 2020.

After lockdown, another workshop on **Tree health** was held on Zoom, **5 August 2020**. This is another example of partnership working. It involved people from TTC, Forest Research (research part of Forestry Commission), 5 Tws, Gary B and 2 Tree Officers East Suffolk.

The main focus was to ascertain what the various levels of local authority GOVERNANCE (County, District/Borough, Parish) felt responsible for, in providing information about tree health, monitoring and communicating this information at parish level. This depends largely on resources available – human and financial. There was discussion about OPM which is now in Suffolk Lowestoft. A straw poll among participants indicated that ADB is still the major disease of concern but climate change and increased pollution, etc are also a major concern.

### **Ways in which you can take part**

An important contribution that you as TW's can make to this partnership working is by conducting and reporting surveys.

Currently being studied are:

- Ash trees and ADB - TTC – by taking photos each year in July/August to compare how disease progressing - info on the TTC website
- John Innes Centre, Norwich – Ash recovery see their website
- Native Black Poplar surveys – Sue Hooton
- Hedgerow surveys
- Ancient/veteran tree surveys

Links to all these are, or will shortly be, on the STWN website.

### **To give you a flavour of some of the enquiries to me as coordinator STWN:**

- Advice to set up tree nursery from Bishop Martin Seeley who is the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich - Bishop Martin, as part of his wider programme to encourage the churches in Suffolk to think about the environment and



biodiversity, is aiming to grow 600 seedling trees to send to every church and church school under his care. Specifically, he was looking for someone who might advise them on getting the tree nursery started at Bishop's House. The Bishop is quite keen on possibly growing wild cherry, cedars and others. Spoke to him on phone and sent Bishop Martin a Good Seed Guide.

- Distance a grave in a cemetery/church yard should be from a large tree – apparently is not specified
- TPO's – how do this, who can apply and who to apply to – info on website
- tree felling on potential development site in Stowmarket
- diseases – Yew die back, Nacton and Wiltshire (phone call saw article on website) - also a question at TTC conference to Forest Research Anna ??
- Possible reporting of OPM
- Several people wanted to plant trees in and around Ipswich in 2019 – given contact details at Ipswich BC
- concerns about hedgerow in Sudbury not being managed appropriately
- concerns about hedgerow and hedgerow trees being cut down around farmland
- concerns about hedgerow being cut down/pruned during bird nesting season
- concerns about plastic tree guards/spirals in towns and countryside
- tree management, grass cutting, removal of guards Street trees, consequent damage by grass cutting round trees
- helped school Beccles to put in application for tree planting grant to Tree Council

**STWN is a member of The Tree Council** (membership fee paid by SCC)

**There have been lots of developments at the Tree Council over the last year:**

- They have increased their staff including appointing a **national tree warden Coordinator Samantha Village** (Sam) who I have been in contact with frequently
- TW Networks have been sent documents about
  - **Membership of TTC including role of coordinator and Dos and Don'ts of TW role** (on STWN website)
  - **TTC brand and logo guidance including Tree Council/Suffolk Tree Warden Network logo**
- **Training** for new Tw's: 7 on line modules, are being written as well as presentations (to be given by e.g. network coordinators). These should be ready by end of year.
- I attended a **TW coordinators workshop**, Richmond Park, 18 November 2019 when we discussed some of these items.
- **A TW Advisory Group** was set up at the beginning of 2019 as pilot group. It meets 3 times a year, East Anglia is represented by John Fleetwood (Broadlands network coordinator). I get sent minutes of the meetings and inform the committee of their contents.
- **TTC funding:** Branching Out Fund for schools and community groups and Orchards for Schools (launched this October)
- **TTC conference**, took place on 26 September 2020 on Zoom replacing the Regional Forums and marking 30 years of Tree wardening - Anniversary Elms – one of 30 to be allocated to TW networks in UK (over 100 networks). Apply to STWN for consideration. Many of you may have attended. If you were unable to attend you can go to TTC website and view video recording.

*Main message: Changing climate, increasing pests/diseases, pollution, biodiversity loss, etc. Tws are more important than ever, encourage young people, need support/training to achieve aims of planting and caring for trees in their communities by working together. STWN fully endorse this.*

### **Committee meetings**

*We had 3 meetings in 2019 in May, June and September, and 2 in January and February 2020 at our parish hall before lock down.*

*Since then the lockdown and social distancing rules have had the consequence that the Committee have been unable to meet face to face. We were also unable to put on the events and training we had been planning. Meetings have have been held on Zoom in May, June, July, August, and September.*

*We have taken this opportunity to get our house in order and sort out some overdue changes. These were also prompted by several documents and policies coming from The Tree Council.*

*Long overdue amendments to the constitution have been made which require approval at this AGM. In addition, the committee has written and agreed a Membership Process which will be put to the AGM for comment. This included appointing Richard Frost as Resolutions Officer. We still have to write and agree other documents such as Rules for Membership which will be put on website when completed.*

### **Membership**

*At present STWN has about 190 Tws out of more than 500 parishes across the whole county recorded on our database. Always changing. Need to make sure that information about changes to TW contact details are passed on to us as it can be quite distressing e.g. TW dies and new TW but I am not told so widow still gets my emails.*

*STWN aims to have a TW at every town/parish or group of small parishes. To achieve this we need to make STWN known to all parish/town clerks. West Suffolk – only 12 towns/parishes covered.*

### **Website**

*Richard Jannaway has been working on the website to make it into a really useful resource for people who care about trees. News items, such as the discussion of die back on Yew trees has attracted attention from a tree owner in Wiltshire. Please send Richard your news and comments on news posts to make the website more interactive and interesting.*

*Some pages have restricted access to only STWs who have registered on the website. For example, Who to contact about Trees in the Resources section and the Tree and Hedgerow pack offer.*

### **Promoting STWN**

*We now have a roll up banner to use at events*

*Promoting STWN especially with parish/town councils is an essential activity we need to do but do not have the skills to carry it out.*

*If you have experience in PR work, we would like to hear from you.*

### **Partnership working**

*This is an important part of the way forward as already described with the joint tree planting and workshops. We would also like to work in partnership to provide TW training, for example tree planting & aftercare, tree health survey, hedgerow & ancient tree surveys, TPOs, etc.*

### **STWN has good partnership working with the following**

- *The Tree Council, Sam Village, Clare Bowen, Jon Stokes*
- *Suffolk County Council, Gary Battell, Tim De-Keyzer*
- *Woodland Trust, Edwin Van Ek, outreach adviser*
- *Suffolk Tree Partnership – discussing STWN needs and available funding*

### **STWN is in contact with**

- *Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) – publicise STWN*
- *Community Action Suffolk (CAS)*
- *Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (SBIS)*
- *Orchards East – Paul Read: local fruit trees*
- *David Mitchell – Redlingfield Wood -TW training*
- *Forestry Commission – Sid Cooper talks about tree pests & diseases*

### **STWN is forging links with**

- *Ipswich Borough Council – set up TW group in Ipswich*
- *County ecologist – Holly Emmens wants to be a TW!*
- *Babergh Mid Suffolk District Councils, Public Realm department - Parish clerks were sent email about Biodiversity Action Plan and find land to plant more trees while increasing wildlife connectivity. Several Tw's have told me they are discussing this at PC meeting. STWN will be in contact with the new manager Will Burchnall who starts today.*

### **Funding STWN**

*STWN has received generous grants from SCC thanks to Gary Battell and Tim De-Keyzer.*

*Support and funding is not just about planting trees. As more funding becomes available and there is an increased demand for tree planting, it will be important to ensure that funding is used to provide administrative support to STWN.*

*John Russell will give his report and include a budget to help realise some of the exciting opportunities and projects for the forthcoming year.*

### **Funding for TWs**

*As already mentioned funding for parish tree wardens is available from The Tree Council: Orchards for Schools and Branching Out Fund.*

*Funding is also available from The Woodland Trust: Free trees for schools and communities, More Woods More Hedges for larger scale planting.*

*District and county councillors are also allocated annual Locality funds which you can apply for.*

### **STWN Committee**



Currently there are 7 active members of STWN executive committee plus 1 non executive advisor.

My thanks go to our small but very hard working committee, specifically to:

*Patti Seaward – secretary – I don't know how we managed without you*

*John Russell – treasurer – for keeping our accounts and giving clear practical advice*

*Jeannie Buckingham – for her enthusiasm in setting up a tree nursery in Debenham, engaging young tree champions and enthusiasm for trees, tree wardens and community*

*Richard Jannaway – we would be lost in the ether without our dedicated website and database manager*

*Mike Smith – for his love of trees as an experienced tree surgeon with lots of amazing tree stories*

*Richard Frost – for being the new Resolutions Officer and giving clear, no nonsense advice.*

*Gary Battell – SCC woodland advisor, non executive advisor whose unswerving support and encouragement has been essential to both me personally and to the continued development and success of STWN.*

*John Ibbetson – founder member of STWN, a source of much practical and sensible advice – he does come from Yorkshire! John has been unwell for some time and will retire from the committee at this AGM. Thank you John for all your sound advice. John has asked to be kept in touch.*

*Also stepping down from the committee is Jeanna McCarthy who feels she cannot give enough time to be on the committee as she has a busy life running a farm. Jeanna has agreed to keep us up to date with any tree related farming news she hears about. Thank you Jeanna for your practical no nonsense approach.*

*Steven Phipps and Simon Ambrose have not indicated they want to put themselves up for election to the STWN committee. I thank them for their input to date.*

*If you would like to get involved and join the STWN committee, please get in touch.*

### **Exciting new projects/ opportunities**

- **Community Tree Nurseries** – Debenham (being set up Jeannie Buckingham), Eye primary school (Mike Smith), Thurston (Barbara Morris), interest from Tws in Wortham & Burgate, Leavenheath and Fressingfield. Hollesley Bay open prison near Woodbridge offered to sow acorns. Various sizes of tree nursery, funding for materials from STWN and SCC. Jeannie will give a brief update of progress so far after the AGM business.
- **Sutton Hoo Ships Company** – plant 300 plus Oaks to replace those being felled to build a sea worthy Anglo- Saxon ship, need land near Woodbridge. Any offers?
- **Canopy cover surveys** – Stowmarket TC had one carried out last year and planned to have a workshop training day for Tws in 2020 but had to cancel because of Covid. Other towns such as Bury St Edmunds and Hadleigh may also be interested. Funding provided by SCC.
- **Making training videos** e.g. tree planting, tree ID, etc
- **Giving TW training presentations** – material supplied by TTC

- *Street trees*
- *Young tree champions*
- *Possible Forum in spring 2021?*

### **Conclusion**

*There are huge changes happening now and into the future including to our climate, pollution, biodiversity loss, increase in tree pests and diseases which will affect us and our children and their children. There has never been a time like now when Twos are needed to care for the trees we have got and to plant and care for new trees. We cannot do this alone but we can make a difference if we work together in our communities in tune with nature and in partnership with other organisations.*

### **Questions and Comments:**

Rosemary Jones commented on the Hedgerow Surveys that used to be carried out by Parishes. Gary confirmed that the paper records are to be digitised at some stage. The records are held by the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service and it is possible to find out if a survey has been done in your Parish. There is a Report covering the whole County and Gary suggested that a link be put on the STWN website.

Fe Morris asked that any tree planting strategy include aftercare and maintenance – watering during dry periods, monitoring tree disease, replacing stakes and guards and weeding. Maintenance was confirmed as an issue by others. It is STWN's intention to make a film about tree planting, from planning to planting to aftercare.

Gary commented that a tip from the Cow Pasture Lane experience was that mulching with straw served to help retain moisture and keep weeds down. David Appleton suggested that when projects of planting are posted on the STWN website, that reminders are made, asking people to check sites and ask for help with ongoing maintenance. Richard Jannaway stated that when TWs order tree and hedgerow packs, that they are asked to confirm that they will provide aftercare and maintenance.

Marie Rolfe talked about her experience of planting Blyth Woods with the local school. The Steering Group has set up a rota where 2 people check the woods every month for maintenance tasks and monitoring; straightforward tasks are carried out by them, and if the job is greater, then help is sought.

Richard Frost asked if there were any 'do's and don'ts' with mulching – Richard Jannaway invited TWs to put some posts and pictures up on the website to inform interested parties about this.

Trevor Smith expressed concern about treework being carried out on trees with a TPO without notification from the District Council and he wondered if it was happening 'across the board'. Different Parishes appear to have different experiences. Robert Allinson felt that Trevor was facing unusual circumstances, and said that the Babergh/MidSuffolk TPO Map is a great resource.

John Preston felt that lack of resources was allowing abuses to happen. He

described a situation where a landowner applied to 'thin a wood' but in fact cleared several yards of oak and ash – the Tree Officer confirmed that permission had been given to 'thin'. It was agreed that it is important to keep photographic evidence and let perpetrators know that they are being watched. If there should have been a felling licence and the action was carried out regardless, then it is in contravention of the Forestry Commission and breaking the law. Gary Battell said that there has been a rise in unlawful felling. The Forestry Commission is aware and is increasing its staffing to try to help address this.

#### **4. Annual Accounts**

#### **Treasurer**

*Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is John Russell and I have the honour of being the Treasurer of the Suffolk Tree Warden Network.*

*I have pleasure in presenting the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Network for the 12 months to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, after which I will bring us up to date and share our budget for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.*

*As you will see from the Accounts circulated with the AGM Agenda, we started the year with a balance of £1340.73.*

*Through the good offices of Gary Battell, Woodland Advisor to Suffolk County Council, and an advisor to our network, we received £4000 from the Council to further our work.*

*We received a further £210 in fees for the 2019 AGM and sold books in the sum of £234.87.*

*During the year, we spent £414.82 on the 2019 AGM, £83 on hall hire for Committee meetings, £139 on the banner, which would have been on display, had we had a live AGM, £117.53 on Public Liability Insurance to cover the Committee whilst promoting events such as tree planting and I.D. and £70.98 on web expenses.*

*This left us with a balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 of £4960.27, together with a stock of books to the value of £122.*

*If you turn to the Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, you will see that, since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 we have spent £43.17 on the licence for Zoom, to enable Committee Meetings, and indeed, this AGM to be conducted remotely and we have purchased 60 Good Seed Guide Books in the sum of £240. This has left us with a balance to date of £4677.10.*

*We are budgeting to use most of this money over the next 6 months in the following ways, and these figures are, of necessity, approximate:*

*£2000 on promotion of the Network, to include the production of a video to explain the correct way to plant and look after trees.*

*£600 on the purchase of 10 each Planting Spears and Spades for Tree Wardens to borrow to assist with tree planting. (We already have a stock of 7 Spades and Spears, but with number of Tree Wardens, we felt that it would be useful to increase this number).*

*£420 on the purchase of 30 Tree Planting and Aftercare books.*

*£130 on the Zoom licence for the rest of the year and £120 on Public Liability Insurance.*

*This totals £3270, leaving some £1400 for other projects.*

*I hope that you will agree that your Committee is using the Network's money wisely and ask you to approve the Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 accordingly.*

*If you have any questions, then I will do my best to answer them.*

*Thank you.*

### **Questions:**

John Preston said that it was great that the money was being used to good effect. Trevor Smith asked if a bit more could be said about the video. Gary Battell said that the first intention was to attract more young people and also to explain the practical aspects of the TW role from planning to planting to maintenance. It is the ambition to have a STW in every Parish and Ward. As a Team, we will be putting together a Storyboard and should prove a wise investment to complement the purchase of practical materials.

Gary felt that Suffolk County Council and STWN are keen to promote the contribution of the environment and biodiversity to the health and well-being of the people of Suffolk and encouraging people to become Tree Wardens and participate. The aim is for the film to be used in promotion, for taking into schools etc. but is meant to reach a broad audience. The film could be broken down into 'bite-sized segments' to be used in a variety of ways.

The Meeting was asked to approve the Accounts: This was proposed by Richard Frost, seconded by John Preston and the Accounts were unanimously approved by the meeting.

## **5. Constitutional Amendments**

### **Chair**

Frances explained the reasons for the amendments. There were no comments or questions.

**Proposal: For the AGM to approve the following amendments:**

#### **- To cover circumstances beyond the Network's control**

This was proposed by John Russell and seconded by Christine Fisher Kay.

#### **- Giving clarification**

This was proposed by Robert Allinson and seconded by Richard Frost. The amendments were carried unanimously by the Meeting.

## **6. Supplementary Regulations: Membership Policy – for comment only.**

Frances explained that this policy was written as it was a requirement in the original Constitution but got missed. It is a procedure to address complaints or concerns about the behaviour of a member of STWN. Richard Frost on the Committee takes the lead on this and is called our 'Resolutions Officer'.

There were no comments or questions.

## **7. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members      Secretary**

Patti read out the names of the Committee members who have indicated that they are wishing to stand again for the Executive Committee.

Frances as Chair, stood down for the election of this post which was managed by John Russell. The nominations were put to the meeting and were elected as follows:

**Chairman and Co-ordinator of STWN:** Frances Jannaway, proposed by John Russell, seconded by Alistair Graham Kerr.

Frances took over again as Chair.

**Secretary:** Patti Seaward, proposed by Christine Fisher Kay, seconded by Feadora Morris.

**Treasurer:** John Russell: proposed by Patti Seaward, seconded by Barbara Morris.

**Ordinary members of the Executive Committee:** Richard Jannaway, Jeannie Buckingham, Mike Smith, and Richard Frost were elected on bloc by the meeting proposed by John Russell and seconded by John Preston.

The nominations were carried unanimously by the meeting.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Gary Battell thanked Frances, the Committee, and the Tree Wardens across the Network for achievements over the past year despite the difficulties. He was also impressed by how well the virtual AGM had gone.

John Russell, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Gary for his support and invaluable help at Committee Meetings.

**Close of Formal Business** Business was closed at 20.47pm

**Signed:**



## **Informal discussion**

Jeannie gave a talk about the Tree Nursery she is setting up at Two Fields in Debenham, with photos. One of her young volunteers has designed a 'mobile tree nursery' using recycled materials which could be transported to communities interested in being involved such as local secondary school.

Her presentation provoked a lot of interest in setting up Tree Nurseries from many STWs. Gary Battell, Woodland Advisor from SCC, said that the Council has money to fund tree nurseries of varying sizes.

Jeannie has encouraged local people to collect seed from their 'favourite trees', which guaranteed personal investment in the outcome.

Various trees were mentioned by STWs which they had grown from seeds or cuttings, to name a few:  
Hornbeams, Robinia, Cedar of Lebanon, Spindle Trees, Oaks, Small Leaved Limes, and Native Black Poplar.

Interest was expressed in growing traditional fruit trees, and it was suggested that Paul Read, local fruit and nut expert, Orchards East, could advise.

As a result of the enthusiasm, participants were happy to share their contact details (Patti to circulate) and Fe Morris offered to set up a 'What's App' Group.

There was interest in having further training/meetings on ZOOM including: legislation and regulations around planning, hedgerows, trees, and TPOs.

A short discussion followed about the new Tree Council/Suffolk Tree Warden Network logo and branding.

Many tree wardens expressed their appreciation for meeting and making contact, albeit virtually, with other tree wardens in Suffolk.

The meeting finished at 9.37pm.