**SYWG Minutes 13/09/23 19:30 at Wheatfen Study Centre**

1. **Welcome and Apologies.**

Present: Paul Carter (member guest), Cathy Terry, Andy Jarrett, Linda Tansley, Jake Zarins, Rodney Aldiss, Jim Bradley. No word: Sarah Wilde.

1. **Paul Carter and Eco-award/collaboration**. PC spoke around collaboration between groups where there are aims and objectives in common. To that end- the eco-church bronze award is something held by Claxton Church, and there is a drive from the Bishop for more parishes to obtain this award. PC proposes that SYWG uses its resources and links to engage with PCCs and help them manage their land for nature. JZ questions the clout of the bishop in all this; PC is clear that ‘encouragement’ is the tool. RA suggests time to record the various parties on a large board, Venn diagram-style. JB suggests that the 2 outstanding examples- Chedgrave and Claxton- could lead the way here and demonstrate best practise, *then* bring in SYWG for further support and expertise. LT asks about the NWT church project- where are they with this? Could they support? ACTION- next meeting, chart out the contacts and formulate a plan.
2. **Minutes of last meeting**. Agreed as accurate bar amendment to LMG funding: 90 (not 70).
3. **Matters arising.** Nothing further to add.
4. **Future events.** Jake Fiennes talk has been advertised on various platforms. RA to man door and introduce JF. AJ to bring camera and film; micro SD card to be purchased.

JZ reminds the group of our link with Crowne Point estate- worth reaching out to invite? RA to contact other local farmers.

RA is considering not running the wildlife activities afternoon due to some disappointment with the turn out. Poringland is booked for July 6th 2024. Rest of the group felt it was a success despite this.

Winter Walk- Chedgrave loop. Provisional date December 3rd- JB will contact the White Horse after next meeting.

1. **Large Marsh Grasshopper.** RA concerned that we will only be able to afford one year, and there is a risk of failure. JZ said he would chase up where the license was at- but a lot of ground work has already gone in.
2. **Wild Patch.** PA suggests we improve the wild patch by the staithe at Rockland. Party of 3+ needed. September 30th 10am.
3. **Rockland bird hide update.** There is now a sub-committee of the parish council dealing with this issue. Site meeting on 28th September related to possible grant from the B.A.
4. **Rockland Scarecrow trail.** October half term. Theme is ‘M’. PA suggests Moths (for his front garden).
5. **Financial report.** £12,219.00 in account.
6. **AOB.** JB, on behalf of Lindsey Bilston from Norwich and Norfolk Bats, asks for a token donation for detector loan for recent walk. Group agrees £30.00.

CT asks about ash saplings- but JZ has not heard anything.

RA completed government consultation on Hedgerows.

PA states there is some distress locally regarding the Oak tree which was cut down in Rockland- but nobody is clear who did this.

PA suggests making a donation to the Ted Ellis Trust- he will investigate how we do this.

**Next meeting: 01/11/23**