

South Hinksey Parish Council

Laura Harlock
Oxford Direct Services
Marsh Road
OXFORD
OX4 2HH

Tuesday 9th November 2021

Dear Laura,

South Hinksey Community Woodland

I am writing to you on behalf of the Woodland Committee at South Hinksey Parish Council. I refer to our previous correspondence in this matter and to the fruitful meeting that we attended with Julian Cooper on the 21st June 2021.

Julian confirmed that Oxford Direct Services would be able to provide the management of the Community Woodland on behalf of South Hinksey Parish Council. In particular Julian indicated as follows:

1. He would act as our agent in correspondence with Sam Riley of the Forestry Commission to ensure that the terms of the Forestry Commission Grant to South Hinksey Parish Council were fulfilled.
2. He would provide a plan to remove the saplings and trees suffering from ash dieback and would replace them with native species especially hazel.
3. He did not consider that the trees required tree guards at this stage.
4. He advised South Hinksey Parish Council to apply to the VoWHDC Countryside Officer for Local Nature Reserve status under 1949 Act. He indicated that we might also consider SSSI application to Natural England.
5. Oxford Direct Services would mow the path around the woodland every four to six weeks in the growing season leaving the area for the wild flower meadow to develop. The grass cuttings will be left in a designated area on site.

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6. The wildflower area will be once per year around the end of summer and the cuttings will be left in a designated area on site.
7. Julian as the ranger for the adjoining Happy Valley site will incorporate the Community Woodland into his area of care and will arrange volunteers.
8. Julian knows Andy Gunn from BBOWT and will liaise with him to formulate long-term plans for the woodland

On behalf of South Hinksey Parish Council, it was indicated that

1. The Forestry Commission payment was available to help fund the woodland development
2. We looked forward to receiving confirmation from Oxford Direct Services that they would be happy to undertake the general management and work to maintain the woodland and surrounding area.

We hope that we have encapsulated the points agreed at the meeting and look forward to hearing from you with a formal agreement as to the work and method of payment.

As always thank you for your help and support!

Yours sincerely

Geoffrey Ferres
Parish Clerk