

DRAFT

**Minutes of the Parish Wood Committee meeting of Healeyfield Parish Council
Held on 15 June at 7.00 p.m. Castleside Village Hall.**

PRESENT

Councillors P Archer, A Hird, J Forster, A Pearson (Chair) J Robson.

G Miller (Clerk).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies of absence were received.

1516/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

1516/15 PARISH WOOD CONSULTATION EVALUATION

Members considered the results from the Parish Wood Consultation as summarised by Simon Wilson from the AONB. Members noted the following;

- 29 Questionnaires were returned
- All of which knew the wood and visited before.
- 19 of those questionnaires returned attended the guided walk.
- 2 respondents preferred option 1
- 17 respondents preferred option 2
- 7 respondents preferred option 3
- 3 respondents did not state a preference

RESOLVED to progress with option 2 as outlined below;

Sensitive repair of the path surfaces (crushed stone and better drainage) where very wet to allow easier pedestrian access..

The gradual removal of conifers and exotic species of all ages, replaced with native broadleaf planting. Significant beech trees and 50% of larch will be retained but regeneration will be managed.

Open, heathy areas of bilberry and heather will be maintained by the selective felling and respacing of birch and holly where necessary.

Halo thinning around selected oak and ash trees to reduce competition for light, and encourage natural regeneration of these native species.

Low impact felling and extraction techniques will be utilised to minimise ground disturbance (damage to ground flora) and limit the disruption to woodland user groups. Where possible, management operations will be incorporated into woodland events and educational opportunities for local schools and the community. Volunteer opportunities are to be created where appropriate.

Revenues from timber sales will be ploughed back into the woodland as directed by the Parish Council / community.

Further advice was to be taken with regards to the management of the grey and red squirrels.

Conclusion of Meeting 7.45p.m.

Signed.....Chairman of the Council
25th June 2015