**REPORT ON GWITHIAN GREEN FOR GGPC. MEETING TO BE HELD AT GWITHIAN CHURCH HALL ON 13TH APRIL 2015.**

**Background**

Gwithian Green is managed on behalf of the Parish Council by the Gwithian Green Advisory Group. It meets quarterly at Gwithian Church Hall and the membership consists of three Gwithian residents one of whom is a commoner and two local Parish Councillors. Although Natural England cannot attend the meetings they have always asked for the minutes.

**Management Plan**

The main agenda is the management plan for the Green. It is now the second year of the five year plan. Each year there is a more detailed yearly work plan which is approved in October. An HLS agreement was approved by NE on 1st November 2012 and runs for 10 years. Payment is £1430 a year.

Additional capital expenditure was approved for removing willow and elm trees around the outside of the pound, pond creation, ditch clearance and silt trap and culvert work. The tree work has been completed as has pond creation and ditch clearance. However, the silt trap and culvert has not happened. The silt coming off the fields into the Gwithian stream has been a major problem for very many years as the stream does not flow well due to the poor gradient and necessitates constant digging out. On balance, it was felt that that having a trap on the wooded/church side of the Green would cause more problems than it would solve because of the difficulty of emptying the trap and disposing of the silt. Vaughan Robbins from NE has suggested using the money for a feasibility study in relation to this ongoing problem. This still needs to be followed up.

**Work on the Green**

Martin Rule, the Environmental Consultant has completed the majority of the work plan regarding scrub management and willow removal

Students from Duchy College have created two small additional ponds in the acid grassland

The Green Club from TCV has undertaken conservation work on 4 occasions with the main focus on removing vegetation from the scrapes and from large sections of the stream as well as digging up and burning numerous Pendulous S edges which have multiplied in recent years.

Two local residents who have the brush cutter certificate have kept the paths open in the summer. The paths follow the butterfly transects but are also are used by dog walkers and wildlife enthusiasts.

Litter is removed once a week.

10 local residents planted wild daffodils in the area that has been put aside as a memorial for Ken Taylor. The daffodils are much smaller and more delicate than the cultivated kind so may take time to establish.

The butterfly transect (which is part of a national monitoring scheme) has been walked by local residents once a week from 1st April to 30th September. Nearly 1000 butterflies were recorded with 23 species seen.

The work of the CPO has been invaluable. He has replaced a number of planks on the boardwalks, refurbished and re-varnished the notice board and replaced the backing board on the information board.

Major ditch work has been undertaken by a contractor, clearing the section that leads from the road to the pipes removing silt.

**Other Matters**

Local resident John Foster was successful in his application to GGSCF for a Bee project. Two hives will be placed on the acid grassland in the next few months.

TCV lost their grant for the Green Club and can longer provide voluntary work. This could present a problem for keeping the stream and ponds clear of invasive vegetation. Other options will need to be explored.

Dick Goodere

Secretary Gwithian Green Advisory Group

3rd April 2015