

Appendix A to minutes of extra Ordinary Meeting of North Dalton Parish Council held on 28th September 2023 at North Dalton Village Hall

North Dalton Pond Project

Background

North Dalton Pond forms the central feature in this Wolds village. Over the years it has become silted up, so that there is little water depth compared to silt. In summer months it can become almost completely "dry" with no water at all over most of the area. The remaining water is of very poor quality and appearance. The silt is washed from lane embankments, independent of seasonal fluctuations of the water supply to the pond. The silt is a serious hazard to people unaware of its dangers. Beneath the apparently firm surface lies a depth of thick liquid material that easily entraps the unwary and makes rescue difficult. (Despite warning signs, two people have recently become trapped in the silt). In addition to this, the pond-side is strewn with debris.

Discussions began in January 2021 when it was agreed that a survey should be implemented. The large duck population was an issue and it was agreed that many should be relocated; recent outbreaks of Avian flu have however hampered this. Meanwhile water and silt samples have been analysed and much work has been done in investigating different ways in which the silt can be safely removed and disposed of.

The pond is owned by North Dalton Parish Council, and as such its restoration and maintenance do not duplicate ERYC activity. The ERYC Street Scene activities compliment the project with handrail painting, footpath maintenance etc. surrounding the pond. As the highways authority, ERYC contribute significantly to the health of the pond by clearing and maintaining the drainage from (predominantly) Huggate Road, where the majority of the silt comes from.

The Project

This project is to dredge out the silt using a specialist contractor with an amphibious dredger, and pump it onto the pond periphery behind a supported timber barrier which prevents the silt from re-entering the water. There it will dry, and enable the planting of appropriate species of plants (for which we have taken professional advice). We would use local volunteers for the planting, and younger residents would design an interpretive board. We have investigated many alternative schemes (using excavation)

The need for this restoration project is clear for all to see, especially in summer when water levels are low. But the silt is also a hidden hazard.

We carried out a boat-based depth survey in 2021 to confirm the depths of silt and over-lying water. We were surprised by the shallowness of the water. It is only a matter of time before the silt fills the pond completely and the pond, as such, will no longer exist.

The pond edges - currently bare and unsightly for most of the year - can become a valuable habitat for water-edge plants, thus creating a new natural environment which will also be visually clear

Future pond maintenance will include regular clearing out of the silt interceptor pit at the road edge (now full). This can be achieved by volunteers. The water-edge planting, and maintenance of the existing reed beds, together offer good opportunities for community volunteering into the future. An

open meeting was held, at which a significant number of residents volunteered to help with the restoration and future maintenance of the pond.

Costings

The cost of the project is being met by a grant offer from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. We also have offers of support to cover the cost of the timber and plants, plus volunteer support for planting and ongoing maintenance

Estimated inclusive costs:

Desilting	Aquatic Solutions x 5 days	17634
Timber	Potential gift	1500
Retaining spikes		1000
Sand Bags x 200 plus sand		730
Hessian seal behind timber		350
Lifebelt		200
Plants		1,730
Hardcore chippings		500
Lifejackets		200
Hi Viz Jackets		200
Waders		200
TOTAL		£ 24244

Additional local funding support has been offered along with loan of some equipment such as hi viz jackets and lifejackets.

An open meeting has been arranged for the 26th September for further community involvement

Grant funding from ERYC on behalf of the UKSPF is to be paid 25% up front and then on a monthly basis on production of invoices. All orders and payments of invoices to be approved by council in accordance to Financial Regulations

Attachments:

- A. Recommended aquatic and marginal plant species
- B. Risk assessment

