



Needham Market Town Council
Climate Awareness Group
MINUTES: Monday 1st April 2025
7pm, Lounge

Present	Amanda Reardon (Chair); Jo Hughes; Ross Piper, Richard Pittaway, Jean Pittaway, Andy France, John Matthissen, Nicola Booth
Apologies	John Reardon, Martin O'Shea, Mark Dimes, Alan Wilkinson
Minutes of last meeting: 24.02.2025	Agreed.
WhatsApp Group	Please see the Orchard Watering and Himalayan Balsam Communities and add yourself to the groups that you are interested in. Nicola and Amanda are admins.
River Gipping Trust	Himalayan Balsam Removal WhatsApp group to be used to organise dates. We will be doing the section upstream from Hawks Mill. We may be able to use a strimmer to cut the plant if it hasn't flowered. ACTION Nicola to sort a schedule Bring: A long pole hedge trimmer; Strimmer's; gloves.
Middle School Field	Progress on bench installation: There is no progress at this time. Planting has happened and thanks to all who helped. There were enough people and a few volunteers that helped. Hex mesh has been strengthened. Thanks to Nick Hardingham for providing the 4mm gage wire and the crimps as well as helping. This halved the time that the planting would have taken. Nick has been asked for an invoice however he has refused and donated this to the cause.
Community Orchard	Hose installation John will be connecting the hose to the IBC this week. The rainwater can then be collected. Until then we will need to take containers of water. ACTION Amanda to find key for the shed for access to the water tap. Watering rotation No rain is forecast so they need to be watered this Sunday (4/4/25). ACTION Can we change the padlock on the field gate to a combination lock for easier access when watering? Amanda to explore with Community Centre/Town Council. More benches Replace broken guards around the trees - Ross to get the large posts needed.
What is next?	Is there anything we can be thinking about as our next project? Bring forward any ideas.
Newsletter items	Amanda to write about the refill shops. Can people write an article so that we have a bank ready to go over the next few months?
AOB	- Martin to give 30 mins update on the Neighbourhood plan review and raise what the issues will be. A formal review has not started yet. Number of houses are increasing by 37%. This will be at a meeting after the review group has begun to meet once grant has been issued. In readiness we can look again at Ross' green areas map to see if there are new areas to add in the light of potential town boundary increases. - Provisional Tree Preservation Order has been issued on the Cedars- Ross will see if there is a link so as we can go online to record support.

	• Dan Pratt has been in touch with the owner of the land between the chalkpit and Chalkeith Road (11 hectares) to discuss its potential sale. It is an important piece of land in terms of rare habitats. MSDC would be interested in purchasing it to preserve it. They may need assistance with meeting the cost. • Ross discussed land recovery projects from a meeting with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency. Primarily this can help improve water quality in the River Gipping. The District Council happy to support the initial stages of this project. • Meadow management- the green area in Pinecroft Way has been scarified and overseeded. • Three other trees have been planted at Crowley Park • Kate and Gary when they helped planting said they would help litter pick. We can arrange for support with this.
Next Meeting	13 th May 2025 7pm Green Room