



Needham Market Town Council
Climate Awareness Group
MINUTES: Monday 24 February 2025
7pm, Green Room

Present	Amanda Reardon (Chair); John Reardon; Jo Hughes; Ross Piper, Nicola Booth, Mark Dimes, Richard Pittaway
Apologies	Martin O'Shea, Jean Pittaway, Andy France, John Matthissen
Minutes of last meeting	Minutes 21.01.2025: Agreed
River Gipping Trust	Response to our offer of help with removing Himalayan Balsam: <i>Many thanks for thinking of us and the Himalayan Balsam. We do plan to 'destroy' even more Himalayan Balsam this year along the banks of the River Gipping, and groups of volunteers are key to assist in their removal. A group of 6 to 18 volunteers walking along its banks seeking to remove Himalayan Balsam between late April and early July would be great. Ideally a group in say early May then repeat 6 weeks later (see photo below of the plant in early April) Or even better a group in late April, late May then late June. We have been targeting some specific, highly dense areas along the riverbanks over the winter months where they can easily cut be with mowers during the summer. One area we had planned was the Needham Market to Baylham stretch, but with Pippins (Riverside farm) footbridge still closed we haven't touched it for some time. Suffolk Rights of Way advised us just last week that it will be replaced this spring. If it is replaced before the seeds start popping (early July) this would be a good place get a group to do. If not, would you consider helping out along other parts of the river. There are very large clusters just upstream of Hawkes Mill, that left unchecked will pop thousands of their seeds into the river in July / August to be washed down into Needham Market. Copy of a page on our work this winter from our newsletter below. Best Wishes Ian Petchey RGT Trustee and Restoration Manager</i> If it has not gone to seed, then you can leave the plant there once pulled out. Seed heads need to be removed. Action: Amanda to liaise with The Gipping River Trust – we will offer to work the section from the first lock upstream from Hawks Mill as far as we can towards Hawks Mill. Pairs or more over a two-week period in April to remove the plants.
Community Orchard	Currently awaiting on a quote for anchoring a bench and buy another one. Fence will be installed on 28th February. Hedge to be planted 8th March – Bosmere children have been invited and an invitation has been sent out in the newsletter. Action Amanda and John to bring gazebo, table, gloves, first aid kit, litter picker, strimmer Purchase hot water dispenser John M- 4 dibbers for planting Bring your own spade Nicola to bring cake Risk assessment - Amanda
Newsletter	April issue- Hedge planting piece
AOB	Ross Piper is chasing up the Tree Preservation Order for the Cedar trees. The Neighbourhood Development Plan was discussed in terms of likely new housing development in line with government policy.
Next Meeting	Tuesday 1 st April 7pm