



Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Tuesday, 12th September 2017, commencing at 7pm.

Present:

Heather Hall (Chair), Joan Tidy, Anne Evans, Steve Tiso, Margaret Tiso, Janet Macdonald, Liz Lenton, Pat Charge, Sheila Hughes, Ian Humphries and Graham White

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Frances Prockter and Jan Ashford,

2. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Thursday 3rd August 2017 were circulated and approved as a true record.

3. Finance and Fundraising

Finance

Joan stated that statements had been received and the accounts balanced. The £24 DD payment taken in error on 1st June has been reimbursed.

Payments: DD £35.94p for website maintenance, cheque 000355 for £26.87p for chicken wire and staples, cheque 000356 for £78.45p for 2 bat boxes.

Receipts: 0.04p interest on the reserve account

Current account stands at £1623.23p, reserve account stands at £5021.06p

Disposal of items no longer required

Complete list sent to members via email. It was decided keep the tables, display boards, hi-vis jackets, Christmas decorations and magnifiers. The other items will be offered to Findern Primary School, Findern Pre-School, Findern Methodist Chapel and Findern Church. Any items not wanted by them will be donated to charity.

Purchase of folding aluminium ladder

Heather is still looking at which ladder would be most suitable and will bring details and the cost to the next meeting.

Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda for authorisation to purchase the ladder

4. Communications and Notifications

All emails forwarded to all members.

i) All Saints Church Harvest Festival

Members have the 2017 needs list and Jan will be in the church on Friday 15th September at 9 am should members wish to donate any of these items. This year's contributions will be donated to the Padley Centre for the homeless and Derby City Missions Bank Project.

ii) Findern Guides

Findern Guides have asked if we could suggest a community project for the guides to carry out in Findern and have asked if someone could attend a meeting on Monday 25th September at 7.30pm to discuss this. Various suggestions were made such as litter picking, adopting a footpath and spreading wildflower seed in Cardales Meadow. Heather, Janet and Steve volunteered to attend the meeting.

Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda for update.

5. Reports and Evaluations from other meetings/events attended

No other meetings or events attended

6. Project Planning

i) Creating a butterfly bank Cardales Meadow

Martin has been on to Taberner Plant Hire for a 13t excavator and 6 tonne dumper. The excavator is £280 per day (or part thereof) and £120 each way for transport plus VAT. The dumper is £150 per week (minimum hire period) plus VAT. Martin thinks we need to allow for 2 days hire so the total would be £950 plus VAT. We may only need one lorry load of limestone and this would cost between £90 and £120 plus VAT. So all in all we're looking at a total cost of £1284.00 including VAT. Members were concerned re the security of the site if high value plant equipment was to be left overnight. Although we have funds to cover the cost it was agreed that we should try and cut costs by just using a JCB to do the job. Before looking into the cost of hiring a JCB Joan wondered whether JCB at Rocester would consider using this as a training project for some of their apprentices and Ian agreed to make enquiries.

In addition to creating the butterfly bank, it has been observed that the numbers of wildflowers in the meadow was down this year so Steve proposed clearing a section of the meadow with a view to reseeding it in March. All agreed this was a good idea and Heather will ask Martin for advice re spraying the area prior to reseeding.

Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda for update

ii) Butterfly Transect 2017

Rota completed up to the end of this year's transect.

7. Event Planning

Proposed visit to Tean Valley Nature Reserve

The cost is £5 per person and each visit must have a minimum of 12 and maximum of 24 in the party. Dates offered are Sunday 17th September, Saturday 23rd September, Sunday 1st and Sunday 8th October. Although we were almost a full meeting it was not possible for 12 of us to be available on the same date. It was decided to postpone the proposed visit until next year. Heather will let Alan know and obtain other dates nearer to the time.

8. Public Rights of Way Reports

Heather, Joan, Steve and Liz cleared round the stile and seat at the start of Airport Way and also stapled chicken wire on the steps of the stile. It was noticed that the wooden footpath post is loose in the ground so Steve will get a metal sleeve and Heather will task the Payback team to do the repair. It was decided that a priority must be to make the stiles on Rushy Meadow Way, The Gostilles, Little Derby Way and Dash's Way safe so further dates for the chicken wire to be stapled on are:

Wednesday 20th, 27th September and 4th October, meet on Lower Green at 10 am to work until 12 noon. When these are done we will turn our attention to Priory Way.

9. Wildlife Site Management

i) Hours of work carried out by the payback team

The team came out on 12/8, 19/8 and 9/9 and carried out a total of 119 hours unpaid work for and on behalf of the community.

ii) Hours of work carried out on the canal towpath

A total of 18 hours work was carried out on the towpath mainly litter picking and balsam clearing.

iii) Working party dates and tasks for September/October – to include bird box maintenance

Nothing has been heard re this autumn's bat box check so Heather will contact Alan to set a date.

The date set for the cleaning and recording the location of the bird boxes is Sunday 24th September; meet on Lower Green at 2 pm.

iv) Steps Cote Close

Heather reported that the wooden border of the steps down into Cote Close from Crow Park Way by the locked gate was rotten and needed replacing. Graham agreed to look into repairing it with railway sleepers which would be stronger.

10. Wildlife Database

Heather reported seeing a Kingfisher along Doles Brook on Common Piece Lane on 29th August and also that she had found an owl pellet near the Tower House. On dissecting said pellet it found a mouse's tail and the skull of a small mammal which she will set out as an educational display for future events.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved: The next meeting will be held in Findern on Tuesday 3^d October 2017 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather Hall.

Signed.....Dated.....