



**Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 commencing at 7pm.**

**Present:**

Heather Hall (Chair), Joan Tidy, Liz Lenton, Janet Macdonald, Margaret Tiso, Steve Tiso, Sheila Hughes, Julia Cross, Philip Cross, Ian Humphries, Rod Bassett and Jan Ashford

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Anne Evans, Frances Prockter, Pat Charge and Richard Berrington.

**2. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 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.

Payments: DD £35.94p for website maintenance, cheque 000357 for £58.32p for chicken wire and staples, cheque 000358 for £10 gift card for Anne Evans (with thanks for the use of her garage as temporary storage space), cheque 000359 for £18.67p for staple gun and staples.

Receipts: 0.04p interest on the reserve account

Current account stands at £1428.42p, reserve account stands at £5021.18p

**i) Purchase of a folding aluminium ladder**

Steve states he has been to Screwfix and the ladder discussed in last month's meeting is exactly what we want and it is £119.99p. Steve was authorised to buy the ladder and make sure Joan gets the receipt so he can be reimbursed.

**ii) Offer of a trailer from a resident**

Heather reports that a local resident has asked her if we would like a trailer. She has not seen the trailer and does not know how much he wants for it but she will find out and let us know at the next meeting.

***Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda for further discussion***

**iii) Renewal and upgrading of the group First Aid Kit**

Steve itemised what was needed for the first aid kit and estimates the cost to be approximately £35. It was agreed that the kit is a necessity and authorisation was given. Steve states he is happy to keep the rucksack at his home address and when he's away he will hand it over the Heather.

**4. Communications and Notifications**

Nothing received.

**5. Reports and Evaluations from other meetings/events attended**

**i) All Saints Church Christmas Tree Festival**

Joan stated she had seen the displays and that Jan, Sheila and Frances had done a great job. Jan stated that the trees could still be seen on Christmas Eve and into January.

**ii) Steve's meeting with Devmac re the group website**

Steve said he had a very productive meeting with Vicky at Devmac and that there were lots of ways to improve the website to make it inspire, inform and interact with not only Findern residents but with other wildlife/conservation groups. He suggested the website should be more integrated with Facebook as this was an ideal way of spreading the word on what we do, how and why we do it. Philip is also keen to bring the website up to date and it was suggested that a small group get together to discuss ideas on what should go on the website and in what format. Steve, Philip, Joan, Heather, Janet and Ian agreed to meet at Ian's on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 at 7 pm.

**6. Project Planning**

**i) Creation of a butterfly bank and reseedling in Cardales Meadow**

Ian has made enquiries with JCB and has been told that it would be possible that they would assist us, however, he has been on different shifts to the man who could organise it so has no firm answer yet. Steve states he has researched the building of a butterfly bank and thinks that by using a slightly different design to that proposed we could do it ourselves over a couple of days with a single JCB as there would be no need to dig out soil from the bottom of the meadow and transport it to the site of the bank. Steve states that the planting of the bank and reseedling of the meadow should be done by February/March so the bank needs to be in place by then. Members agreed that we still want the ponds at the bottom of the meadow so this will now be undertaken as a separate project to run concurrent with the creation of the butterfly bank.

***Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda for further discussion***

**7. Public Rights of Way Reports**

Heather reported that the disease resistant elms planted at the top of the bank on the Cardales Meadow side of Crow Park Way appeared to have been damaged and looked dead. It was decided to wait until the spring to see if there was any new growth and if not to replace them.

Heather reported that several of the fingerposts on the footpaths were rotting at the bottom so she had ordered metal sleeves and as soon as they arrive repairs will be undertaken.

Heather reported that the boardwalk on Priory Way had had chicken wire stapled to it. Most of the stiles within the village have been chicken wired but those on stiles at the top of Porters Lane still need to be done. Heather reported that a resident had asked if a dog flap could be put in the stile on Little Derby Way (footpath from the top of Porters Lane to the A38). The land is owned by Mrs Cliffe so Heather will speak to her and ask permission for us to do it.

**8. Wildlife Site Management**

**i) Hours of work carried out by the payback team**

Heather reported that the payback team came out on 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November and carried out a total of 54 hours unpaid work for and on behalf of the community. A collection had been made to buy the team some goodies to show our appreciation of their efforts on our behalf. Heather states they will be out on 16<sup>th</sup> December and she would hand out their treats in Brook Close at about 1 pm if any other members would like to attend.

**ii) First Aid training**

This item is to be discussed after the Christmas break

***Resolved: this item is to be added to the next agenda for a venue and dates to be agreed***

**iii) Management Plant Cote Close Bird Sanctuary**

Heather suggested that the payback team need a winter project and would it be feasible to have them build a seat around the pipe which sticks up out of the ground in Cote Close. No one seems to know why the pipe is there or what it is for so it was decided to try and find out before we make any plans. Joan will try and find out from Highways England. Steve states some of the young oak trees in the close are being hindered by the brambles around them so it was agreed that we need to clear an area around the base of the trees and to put tree mats down. The seat that was damaged on Porters Lane has been recovered and

some of it is rotten, however, it is thought that there is enough good wood left to repair the steps going down into Cote Close so Heather will ask the payback team to do this when they are next out on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Heather noted that the commemorative plaques are now illegible and offered to take one off and try to clean it. The 10 whips received from SDDC as part of their free tree scheme are to be planted in Cote Close as soon as we have the tree guards. Joan will email a date when known.

**9. Wildlife Database**

Jan reported seeing a Redwing in her garden on 12<sup>th</sup> December and Heather reported a Great Spotted Woodpecker on Crow Park Way on the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**10. Any other business**

Heather stated that Mr Hicklin says he will take the oak trees out of the cemetery by means of a tractor and chains but he needs them to be partially dug out first. Heather will obtain some dates from Mr Hicklin and let members know so a few of us can go and start digging them out.

Ian has started repairing the bird boxes and asked if we wanted new ones making as well. It was agreed that yes we did so Ian will get the wood and give Joan the receipt. He stated the boxes need to be back on the trees by the end of February.

***Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda to fix a date to replace the boxes.***

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

***Resolved: The next meeting will be held in Findern on Wednesday 3 January 2018 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather Hall.***

***Signed.....Dated.....***