



Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Tuesday 14th November 2017 commencing at 7pm.

Present:

Heather Hall (Chair), Joan Tidy, Liz Lenton, Margaret Tiso, Steve Tiso, Frances Prockter, Sheila Hughes, Pat Charge, Graham White and Rod Bassett

Heather welcomed new member Rod to the group.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Julia and Philip Cross, Jan Ashford, Janet Macdonald, Ian Humphries and Anne Evans.

2. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Tuesday 3rd October 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.

Receipts: 0.04p interest on the reserve account

Current account stands at £1493.03p, reserve account stands at £5021.14p

Purchase of folding aluminium ladder

Heather had obtained some prices from the internet and passed some examples round. The best one seemed to be available from Screwfix at a cost of £119. Steve is going to Screwfix and will have a look at the ladder in the flesh and report back to the next meeting.

Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda for discussion and/or authorisation to purchase

4. Communications and Notifications

All emails had been forwarded to members – no further discussion except the one from SDDC concerning the free tree scheme which is to be discussed under 'Event Planning'.

5. Reports and Evaluations from other meetings/events attended

Nothing to report as no other meetings or events were attended since the last meeting.

6. Project Planning

i) Name of the group and website

It was agreed that the name of the group should remain Findern Footpaths Group, however, the website is to be updated and our aim in protecting and conserving our environment will be made clear.

ii) Creation of a butterfly bank and reseeded of Cardales Meadow

Steve states he has downloaded details of how to create a butterfly bank from the internet and states there is no need to dig out the ponds to obtain soil. Using the method he has downloaded he is confident we can do it ourselves if we hire a JCB for two days. As Ian is not at the meeting Heather will contact him to find out how enquiries with JCB at Rocester are going. If there is no positive outcome we will look into hiring a JCB (a driver is not necessary as Steve has a licence to drive the machine).

Whilst we have the JCB it is intended to clear an area in the meadow ready for reseeded.

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

7. Event Planning

i) Proposed removal and replanting of 2 oak trees from Findern Cemetery

The trees in question are in the way of a planned path and SDDC intended to remove them. Heather contacted the council to see if the trees could be saved and was told if we wanted them we could take them and replant them. She has looked into the cost of moving and replanting and it would be approx. £500 per tree. Members felt this was a lot to pay as it was possible the trees would not survive the move. As the work in the cemetery is not due to begin until March members decided in the first instance to write to SDDC asking them if it was possible that the path be moved a short distance to one side to avoid having to remove the trees.

Resolved: Heather and Joan will draft a letter to the council and report back when a reply has been received.

ii) Planting of 2 oak trees donated to the group

Heather has one oak tree which she and Steve will plant tomorrow in Mr Hicklin's field. A local resident has the other tree which was grown from an acorn by her son. It is undecided where to plant this at present so Joan will email the resident and ask if they have any preference and whether they want to be at the planting. As well as the oak trees we applied to SDDC for 10 Cherry trees from their free tree scheme and our application was successful. Steve proposes that these trees are planted to form an avenue in Cardales Meadow as they will provide lots of blossom for the butterflies and bees we hope to attract with the butterfly bank and reseeded of wildflowers. Steve and Heather will inspect the site tomorrow and Steve will collect the trees from Rosliston on the date specified.

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

iii) All Saints Church Christmas Tree Festival

Frances, Liz and Sheila volunteered to decorate the tree on 30th November between 9.30 and noon.

8. Public Rights of Way Reports

i) Damaged seat and fingerpost Porters Lane/Little Derby Way

Heather will ask Richard if the payback team could collect the seat and fingerpost and bring them to the back of the Parish Rooms so we can assess if they can be repaired and how.

ii) Steps both sides of Heath Lane (The Gostilles and Rushy Meadow Way)

The hand rail on the Rushy Meadow Way side of the road has completely broken off; Heather will ask Richard if the payback team can bring it to the back of the Parish Rooms. It is not known who put the handrail up and therefore who should pay for the replacement. Heather will contact the Parish Clerk for advice. It was also noted that vegetation is encroaching of both sides of the steps so Heather will ask if the payback team can clear them off.

9. Wildlife Site Management

i) Hours of work carried out by the payback team

The team came on 7th October and 14th October and carried out a total of 84 hours unpaid work for and on behalf of the community

ii) Hours of work carried out on the canal towpath

Heather carried out a total of 6 hours work mainly litter picking along the towpath

iii) Working party dates and tasks

Wednesday 15th, 22nd and 29th November, meet on Lower Green at 10 am, continuing to staple chicken wire to wooden stiles.

iv) Steps into Cote Close

Graham and Steve have inspected the steps and Steve thinks we should be able to repair them with 3 sleepers. Graham will see if Woodgrow can supply us with the sleepers.

10. Wildlife Database

Joan reported that she had seen a Sparrowhawk take a Sparrow from a bird table in Aults Close.

11. Date of Next Meeting

It is noted that we have several new members now and that not everyone can make a Tuesday evening. A suggestion was made that perhaps we could alternate the meeting nights so that all members could attend some meetings. Wednesday 13th December was suggested so it was agreed that Heather should ask Murrays if we could alternate between Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Resolved: The next meeting will be held in Findern on Wednesday 13th December 2017 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather Hall.

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