



Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Thursday 1st June 2017, commencing at 7pm.

Present:

Heather Hall (Chair), Joan Tidy, Pat Charge, Janet Macdonald, Sheila Hughes and Jan Ashford

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Frances Prockter, Liz Lenton, Ian Humphries, Graham White and Anne Evans.

2. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Thursday 4th May 2017 were circulated and approved as a true record.

3. Finance and Fundraising

Finance

Joan stated statements had been received and the accounts balanced.

Payments: DD £35.94p for website maintenance, cheque 000352 £24.75p for new padlock.

Receipts: 0.04p interest on the reserve account

Current account stands at £1916.00p, reserve account stands at £5020.93

Heather reported that she had had to buy another padlock for the gate (£26.50p) and that resident Paul Wilson had fitted a handrail to the boardwalk on Priory Way (cost of materials £38.74p). All receipts given to Joan who wrote the necessary cheques and Janet countersigned them. Grateful thanks were extended to Paul for carrying out the work on our behalf.

4. Communications and Notifications

i) Storage facility at Murrays

Heather stated that new electronic gates have been fitted at Murray's and that she had been given the code to allow us access for our meetings and to get to our storage cupboards.

ii) Siting of trophy display cabinet

Heather stated that after trying several locations within the village the only place that offered to provide space for our trophy cabinet is Murray's, it is not yet know exactly where within the premises it will be placed.

iii) SDDC Environmental Forum email re training days

Jan, Janet, Joan would like to attend the wildflower identification course at Rosliston on Wednesday 28th June 2016, Joan will book our places and Jan volunteered to drive.

5. Reports and Evaluations from other meetings/events attended

i) Dawn Chorus Walk Saturday 6th May 2017

12 hardy souls braved the cold wind and turned out for the walk. 27 different species of our feathered friends were seen and heard and all have been recorded on our website. Many thanks were extended to Ian for leading the walk and to Lindsay and her mum at Bees Teas for providing bacon butties and hot drinks after the walk.

ii) Bat box check Saturday 27th May 2017

Heather, Pat, Joan and young Findern resident Chloe joined Tom from the Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group to check our boxes. Evidence of bat occupation was found in many boxes and in Cote Close Bird Sanctuary one box was found to contain a Leisler's bat and another box contained a Pipistrelle. It is proposed that we buy 2 more boxes to be placed on trees in Cardales Meadow during the autumn bat box check. Joan will obtain prices for approval at the next meeting.

Resolved: This item is to be added to the next meeting for further discussion.

6. Project Planning

i) Creating a butterfly bank Cardales Meadow

All details of the proposal have been passed by their agents to Highways England and we await their response.

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

ii) Butterfly Transect 2017

Apart from week 12 (w/b 17th June) the rota has been completed up to and including week 18.

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

7. Event Planning

i) Summer Evening walk postponed - to be rearranged

It was agreed that as we have so much work to do on our paths and wildlife sights it would be a good idea to postpone the evening walk and do a day time walk later in the year.

ii) Priory Way walk Tuesday 27th June 2017

Meet on Lower Green at 6.30 pm. Joan will do posters inviting residents to join us and see the improvements made to this linear walk to Heatherton Pond.

8. Public Rights of Way Reports

i) Rushy Meadow Way

Heather reports that Mr Hicklin has given us permission to repair the broken plank along this walk and she is endeavouring to get hold of a railway sleeper so that this can be done. She reports that the stile at the Lower Green end needs repairing so she will see if Richard and the payback team can do it.

ii) Airport Way

Heather reports that the fingerpost is rotten at the bottom and very wobbly and needs resetting. Joan states the post was provided by DCC so in the first instance Heather will speak to the footpaths officer regarding a replacement.

9. Wildlife Site Management

i) Hours of work carried out by the payback team

Heather states the team came out on 6th May and 13th May and carried out a total of 91 hours unpaid work for and on behalf of the community.

ii) Hours of work carried out on the canal towpath

Heather states 10 hours work has been carried out along the towpath mainly litter picking and pulling up Himalayan Balsam.

iii) Working Parties for June to include Balsam bash on the towpath and mowing rota

As no male members were at the meeting to organise the mowing rota Heather will ask Richard and the payback team to some mowing this Saturday. Other working party dates arranged were:-

Monday 5th June and Tuesday 6th June, meet on Lower Green at 9.30 am to clear stiles, seats etc. so shears required.

Friday 9th June, Friday 16th June meet at Nadee at 6.30 pm to pull up Himalayan Balsam along the side of the towpath.

iv) Security of the garages at the Parish Rooms

Heather states the garages are now on a separate alarm and she has all the keys necessary to gain access to the equipment.

10. Wildlife Database

Sightings from the Dawn Chorus walk and bat box checks have been recorded on the spread sheet and on the website.

11. Date of Next Meeting

No one was available to take the minutes on Thursday 6th July so it was agreed that there would be no meeting in July therefore the following working party dates were agreed:-

Wednesday 12th July meet at Lower Green at 6.30 pm

Monday 24th July meet at Nadee at 6.30 pm.

Details of tasks to be carried out will be emailed so members will know what tools to bring.

Resolved: The next meeting will be held in Findern on Thursday 3rd August 2017 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather Hall.

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