



Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murrays, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Thursday, 2nd February 2017, commencing at 7pm.

Present:

Heather Hall (Chair), Joan Tidy, Anne Evans, Liz Lenton, Frances Prockter, Sheila Hughes, Janet Macdonald, Ian Humphries, Graham White and Jan Ashford

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Richard Berrington.

2. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Thursday 5th January 2017 were circulated and approved as a true record.

3. Finance and Fundraising

Finance

Joan reported that statements had been received and the accounts balanced.
Payments: DD £35.94p for website maintenance (January), £45 David Hollis for wildlife talk 27th January.
Receipts: 4p interest on reserve account. £66 proceeds of wildlife talk paid into current account.
Current account stands at £2200.01p. Reserve account stands at £5020.77p.

Purchase of bat boxes

Still no reply received re what type of box, how many and who supplies them. Heather will chase up.

Group Insurance

It was agreed to go with Zurich for public liability and personal accident cover at a cost of £115.50p.

4. Communications and Notifications

All emails forwarded to members and none required further discussion.

Heather stated she had received a complaint from a landowner re the locked gate. She proposed writing to all the relevant landowners with details of how to obtain the code for the padlock to open the gate. She read out the draft of the letter and all agreed its content.

5. Reports from Sub Groups

i) Hours of work carried out by the Payback Team

The Payback Team came out on 21st and 28th January and carried out a total of 72 hours unpaid work for and on behalf of the community

ii) Hours of work carried out on the canal towpath

A total of 16 hours work, mainly litter picking, was carried out on the towpath since our last meeting.

iii) Group Constitution

There is nothing to report at this stage.

It was agreed that we no longer operate sub groups so this item will be deleted from future agendas.

6. Reports and Evaluations from other meetings/events attended

‘A Year in the Woods’ slide show Friday 27th January 2017

This event was very well attended and enjoyed by all. The fee for the event was £45 and a total of £66 was taken in entrance fees. Refreshments were provided by group members so £21 profit was made. It was suggested that a donation be made to the Methodist Chapel for the use of the chapel for this event, however, Heather reported that Lynette had said that the donation we made in November was sufficient.

7. Project Planning

i) Improvements to Airport Way

Heather stated she had walked the footpath alongside the A38 and was amazed at the amount of rubbish there and suggested a litter pick to take place during the ‘Great British Spring Clean’ which is running from 3rd to 5th March. It was noted that any such work would have to be cleared with the Highways Agency. Some members were unsure of the location so it was agreed to walk the route to carry out a risk assessment and ascertain if it would be suitable for a circular walk route. Members are to meet at the post box Hillside j/w Porters Lane on Saturday 4th February 2017 at 2 pm.

ii) Involvement in the extension of Findern Cemetery

Our involvement in this project is to help with the planting of trees, shrubs and a new hedge in the cemetery. Heather is liaising with Ruth at SDDC Environmental Education Project at Rosliston re a site meeting with her, group members and staff from Findern Primary School as it is hoped to involve the children in this project. Suggested dates are Wednesday 8th March or Wednesday 22nd March. As soon as a date is confirmed Heather will let us know.

Resolved: This item is to be added to March’s agenda for update.

8. Event Planning

i) Dawn Chorus Walk May 2017

Ian volunteered to lead a Dawn Chorus Walk and the date proposed is Saturday 6th May 2017. On previous walks breakfast has been enjoyed in the Methodist Chapel, however, a suggestion was made as to whether to see if the newly opened ‘Bees Teas’ in the Parish Rooms would like to be involved. Members were split on the venue so it was decided that Frances would approach Lindsey at Bees Teas to ascertain whether this would be something they could cater for and what the cost would be before a final decision is made.

Resolved: This item is to be added to March’s agenda for update.

ii) Bat Box Checks

Steven at the Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group has proposed Saturday 27th May 2017 and this date was agreed by members. Heather will confirm with Steven and enquire about new bat boxes.

Resolved: This item is to be added to March’s agenda for update.

iii) Summer Evening Identification Walk

During a discussion members said how much they had enjoyed the evening walk led by Debbie Alston some time ago and suggested another such event. Joan will contact Debbie and get some ideas/dates.

Resolved: This item is to be added to March’s agenda for update.

iv) Event to replace ‘Fun on the Green’

Members agreed to hold an event on Tuesday 22nd August 2017 and to come up with some ideas as to the type and duration of the event to bring to the next meeting.

Resolved: This item is to be added to March’s agenda for update.

9. Public Rights of Way Reports

Airport Way already discussed under item 7 Project Planning.

10. Wildlife Site Management

Discussion of proposed Management Plan

All accepted the management plan and regular working parties will be organised at each monthly meeting. It was agreed that the first working party will be on Sunday 19th March at 2 pm. Members are asked to take note of what needs doing and where and bring details to the next meeting.

Cote Close

Heather reports that the payback team have cleared areas of bramble in Cote Close and that these areas can now be planted. It is decided not to plant wildflowers as the bramble will grow back again and is needed as habitat for wildlife. It was agreed to plant berry bearing trees to encourage birds so Graham will liaise with Martin at Woodgrow to obtain prices for Cotoneaster, Pyracantha and Rowan trees.

Heather requested more laminated signs asking horse riders not to ride on the banks (Joan dealing). Heather will ask the Parish Council for an update on the new mowers they are purchasing and Graham will arrange for Belmont to service the sit on mower and invoice Findern Parish Council.

11. Wildlife Database

Joan reported 10 Waxwings at Mercia Marina on 1st February.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved: The next meeting will be held in Findern on Thursday 2nd March 2017 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather.

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