



Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Thursday 2nd March 2017, commencing at 7 pm.

Present:

Heather Hall (Chair), Joan Tidy, Anne Evans, Sheila Hughes, Janet Macdonald and Jan Ashford

1. To receive apologies for absence

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

2. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Thursday 2nd February 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. Cheque made out for £115.50p for group insurance.

Receipts: 0.04p interest on the reserve account.

Current account stands at £2048.57p. Reserve account stands at £5020.81p.

4. Communications and Notifications

All emails forwarded to all members – none required further discussion.

Heather stated she had received an email from the School Library Service asking if we want to renew our membership. It was agreed not to renew at this time and we don't have any events planned.

With regard to the siting of our trophy cabinet and framed certificates Heather states that she is liaising with Lindsey re putting the certificates up on the wall in Bees Tea Room. She had contacted the village hall to see if we could put our trophy cabinet in there but this is not possible as there are health and safety concerns. Members are not happy with our trophies and awards going to SDDC in Swadlincote as we feel they should be readily accessible to parishioners. Heather will make enquiries with other venues within the village before a final decision is made.

5. Reports and Evaluations from other meetings/events attended

Heather stated she had attended the meeting re the improvements to Hillside Playing Field and asked if members were happy to be involved. Members agreed that we were more than happy to help with any planting of wildflowers, trees and shrubs.

6. Project Planning

i) Creating a 'Butterfly Bank'

It was agreed that the best place for the bank would be in Cardales Meadow; however, as this site is leased from the Highways Agency by Findern Parish Council Joan will contact Clare, the parish clerk, to ascertain if any permission must be obtained.

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

ii) Derbyshire Butterfly Transect 2017

Members agreed to continue with the annual butterfly transect and the rota for April was completed.

Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda for completing the rota for May.

iii) Surveying Cardales Meadow with a view to applying for Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status.

Heather will look into when the meadow was last surveyed with a view to contacting the surveyor to see if it is time to have it surveyed again.

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

7. Event Planning

i) Litter pick in layby A38

Heather stated she had spoken to SDDC Cllr Andy Macpherson and he had been out and looked at the layby. He agreed that it is unacceptable and said it is a council matter and he has passed details on to the relevant department for a risk assessment to be carried out. He will contact Heather with an update as soon as he has one.

ii) Tree planting Findern Cemetery Wednesday 8th March 2017, 9.30 am

Heather states everything has been organised between the school and SDDC Environmental Project Office and that we are providing drinks for the children and facilitating visits to the Methodist Chapel for comfort breaks.

iii) Dawn Chorus walk Saturday 6th May 2017, 5 am

Bees Tea Rooms could put on tea, coffee and rolls (but not full breakfasts) at an estimated cost of £5 per head. The Methodist chapel is available but there is no cook. As Ian is leading the walk Heather will liaise with him re whether to include breakfast and which venue to use.

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

iv) Bat Box checks Saturday 27th May 2017, 10 am

Heather will liaise with Alan and Steven re the checks and also obtain details of which bat boxes we should buy, how many and at what cost.

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

v) Summer Evening Identification walk

The date agreed is Friday 9th June 2017. It is proposed to meet on the village green at 7 pm and to have refreshments afterwards in the Methodist Chapel. Joan will confirm the date with Debbie and Heather will ascertain whether the chapel is available. It is proposed to charge £3 per head to cover costs.

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

vi) Event to replace 'Fun on the Green' Tuesday 22nd August 2017

Members are still undecided as to what this event will be.

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

8. Public Rights of Way Reports

i) Little Derby Way (not Airport Way as recorded in previous minutes)

Some members walked the route and it is a circular route but all agreed it is not very nice along the pavement running alongside the A38. It was suggested that perhaps we could liaise with the Footpaths Officer at DCC to ascertain whether it would be feasible to contact the landowner with a view to having a concessionary path to follow the hedgerow behind the old haulage yard and avoid having to go along the A38. Joan states she had been informed that the landowner is now St Modwen's in Burton. Heather has met the Footpaths Officer on numerous occasions and volunteered to contact her with this query.

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

ii) Priory Way

Heather states she will chase up the landowner re installing the new signs as she is anxious to get photographs taken so we can get the walk leaflet drafted ready for printing.

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

9. Wildlife Site Management

i) Hours of work carried out by the payback team

Heather states the team came out on 11th February and 25th February and carried out a total of 42 hours of unpaid work for and on behalf of the community.

ii) Hours of work carried out on the canal towpath

Heather states she had carried out 8 hours work (mainly litter picking) on the towpath since the last meeting.

iii) Cote Close planting in cleared areas

Graham was not at the meeting but he had obtained prices for the trees and will email details to Joan. Heather states the payback team still have some brambles to clear and that Richard may be able to get hold of some free wildflower seeds. Members agreed these could be scattered in the wildflower meadow.

iv) Tasks/volunteers for working party Sunday 19th March

Joan, Jan and Sheila volunteered and will wash noticeboards and clear the stile at the Heath Lane end of The Gostilles. If other members not present at the meeting are available other tasks can be found.

10. Wildlife Database

A Roe Deer had been seen on Rushy Meadow Way and a dead Badger had been seen on the A50 Bridge Heath Lane.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved: The next meeting will be held in Findern on Thursday 6th April 2017 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather.

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