



**Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Thursday 3rd August 2017, commencing at 7pm.**

**Present:**

Heather Hall (Chair), Joan Tidy, Liz Lenton, Sheila Hughes, Frances Prockter and new members Steve and Margaret Tiso

During the meeting Cllr Mary Goodall, Chair of Findern Parish Council called in to offer the Council's assistance with the upkeep of the path and steps around the King George V playing field. This offer was gratefully accepted.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Pat Charge, Jan Ashford, Graham White, Janet Macdonald, Ian Humphries, Anne Evans and Richard Berrington.

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

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 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. An unauthorised DD payment of £24 had been made to Devmac on 1<sup>st</sup> June. On checking with Devmac this was their error as the payment should have been taken from Findern Parish Council not Footpaths Group and they will be reimbursing the money.

Payments: June DD £35.94p for website maintenance, DD £14.39 website domain name renewal, cheque 000353 £38.74p materials for hand rail Priory Way, cheque 000354 for padlock Crow Park Way. Payments July DD £35.94p for website maintenance

Receipts: 0.04p interest on the reserve account

Current account stands at £1764.49p, reserve account stands at £5021.02p

Frances thanked Joan on behalf of the group.

**i) Proposed purchase of 2 bat boxes**

Joan proposed buying 2 bat boxes to be put on the ash tree in Cardales Meadow. Alan Roe, Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group, suggested a 2FN (£37.96) and a 2F (£38.95) and he has provided details of where to get them. Joan was authorised to purchase the bat boxes.

**ii) Proposed purchase of a folding aluminium ladder**

Heather states the PCSO had been using exactly the type of ladder we need so she will ask her where she got it and get a price to put to the group at the next meeting.

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

**4. Communications and Notifications**

**i) Future aims of the group**

As we are primarily a conservation group it was decided that our aims should be to keep our Public Rights of Way (PROW) clear and maintain and conserve our wildlife sites. Frances had suggested that perhaps 2 members should adopt a footpath and maintain it, however, we have 15 footpaths of various lengths and

some need more work than others. Steve said he would be happy to walk the paths and draw up a management plan detailing what needed doing and when and what tools would be required. Joan agreed to walk with him round the paths and wildlife sites on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August meeting at Lower Green at 10am. Other members are welcome to join if they are available. It was also agreed that we would continue with the annual Butterfly Survey between April and September.

#### **ii) Change of day/time of the monthly meeting**

As a number of members can't make Thursday's it was decided to change the day of the meeting to the second Tuesday of the month for a trial period of 6 months commencing on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017. It was suggested that perhaps a later start time would be better for those members who work. Joan will email all members and ask whether they would prefer a 7 pm or 7.30 pm start and we will go with the majority.

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

#### **i) Priory Way walk 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Heather reported that it was very disappointing as no members of the public turned up, however, she, Frances, Pat and Jan did the walk themselves and cleared all the stiles and kissing gates on the way.

#### **ii) SDDC environmental forum identification course 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Jan, Janet and Joan attended and learned a lot from Lawrence who guided the walk.

#### **iii) Opening Hillside playing field play area 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017**

Heather, Joan and Jan attended this event organised by Findern Parish Council to open the newly refurbished children's play area. The site was officially opened by Cllr Stanton, chair of SDDC.

### **6. Project Planning**

#### **i) Proposed butterfly bank Cardales Meadow**

Highways England from whom the meadow is leased have no objections to our building the butterfly bank so it was decided to hold another site meeting to move the project forward. Dates suggested are either Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August or Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August at 7 pm. Joan will email other interested parties and let members know what date asap.

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

#### **ii) Butterfly Transect 2017**

Rota completed to the end of September

### **7. Event Planning**

Heather proposed a visit to Alan and Sheila Williams' barn owl sanctuary near Rocester. As not many members were present this will be added to the next agenda to sort out a date and transport arrangements.

### **8. Public Rights of Way Reports**

#### **Rushy Meadow Way**

Heather reports that the stile is still wobbly and that Mr Hicklin should be sorting it out. Steve said he'd have a look at it see if he could repair it.

### **9. Wildlife Site Management**

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

Heather stated the team came out on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 17<sup>th</sup> June 15<sup>th</sup> July and 22<sup>nd</sup> July and carried out a total of 150 hours unpaid work for and on behalf of the community.

#### **ii) Hours of work carried out on the canal towpath**

Heather states since our last meeting in June 16 hours work has been carried out on the towpath.

#### **iii) Working Parties for August**

The next working party will be on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August from 1030 am to 1230 am. Details of what and where will be emailed to all members after Steve has drawn up the management plan discussed earlier in the meeting.

**10. Wildlife Database**

Heather reported seeing a Tawny Owl on Common Piece Lane on 31<sup>st</sup> July at 11 pm. Joan will add it to the website and spreadsheet.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

Before the meeting closed Frances thanked Heather on behalf of the group for all her hard work coordinating the payback team and all the maintenance work she regularly carries out on our sites.

***Resolved: The next meeting will be held in Findern on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017, the time will be emailed to members when it has been decided.***

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