



Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 commencing at 7pm.

Present:

Heather Hall (Chair), Joan Tidy, Liz Lenton, Steve Tiso, Margaret Tiso, Sheila Hughes, Julia Cross, Philip Cross, Frances Prockter, Ian Humphries, Jan Ashford and Pat Charge

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Anne Evans, Janet Macdonald, Richard Berrington and Rod Bassett. Cllr Woodhouse was to attend the meeting to speak about the butterfly bank but is unable to attend so has sent his apologies.

2. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Wednesday 13th December 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 000360 for £17.35p for tree stakes, cheque 000361 for £84.99p for metals sleeves for the repair of fingerposts.

Receipts: 0.17p interest on the reserve account

Current account stands at £1290.14p, reserve account stands at £5021.35p.

i) Purchase of aluminium ladder

Steve has purchased the ladder, cost £119.99p and replacements for the 1st aid kit, cost £34.08p, receipts given to Joan and Steve given a cheque for £154.07p

ii) Offer of a trailer from a resident

The resident is offering to donate the trailer, Heather will obtain measurements so we can decide if we can store it when it's not in use.

iii) Group Insurance Renewal

Joan stated that an email had been received from Zurich as our Public Liability insurance runs out on the 4th February 2018. Before we renew Joan will forward the certificate to Steve and Philip to confirm that we have the right coverage. Joan will also let Steve and Philip have copies of all our risk assessments so we can set about reviewing them.

4. Reports and Evaluations from other meetings/events attended

No other meetings or events attended so nothing to report

5. Project Planning/Event Planning

i) Creation of a butterfly bank and reseeding in Cardales Meadow

Findern Parish Council had been given details of our change of design for the bank and Cllr Woodhouse was due to attend this meeting to discuss these. As he is unable to attend Steve will liaise directly with him. We intend to hire or (borrow) a JCB which Steve and Ian can both drive to dig out the bank and also

clear the area to be reseeded. Findern guides have offered to help with the reseeded and also with the planting of the butterfly bank when it is finished. Once the earth mound is ready arrangements will be made for the limestone chatter to be delivered and volunteers will be sought to help with the spreading of the chatter over the bank. It is hoped to start the bank on Saturday 3rd February 2018 and for it to be completed by the end of that month.

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

ii) Removal of 2 oak trees from Findern Cemetery

Heather states Mr Hicklin is going to remove the trees with chains but needs the area around the trees to be dug out beforehand. It is suggested that they need to be removed and replanted on the same day so Heather will speak to Mr Hicklin to ascertain where they are to be replanted. As soon as this has been decided a date for the work to be done will be arranged.

Resolved: If not completed before this item is to be added to the next agenda for update

6. Public Rights of Way Reports

Repair and replacing of fingerposts

Heather states she has purchased the sleeves for the posts and she will task the Payback Team with replacing them.

Heather states that the seat we placed in Stanhope Hole could be removed and used to replace the one damaged on Porter's Lane. As the Parish Council no longer leases Stanhope Hole Heather will ask them for advice on getting the landowners permission to remove the seat.

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

7. Wildlife Site Management

i) Hours of work carried out by the payback team

Heather reports that the team came out on 9th December and carried out a total of 36 hours unpaid work for and on behalf of the community. They also attended on 16th December but no work was carried out.

ii) Replacing of new/repairs bird boxes

Ian has other commitments this month so we will arrange the replacing of the boxes at the next meeting.

Resolved: This item is to be added to the next meeting to arrange a date.

iii) Management plan Cote Close Bird Sanctuary

Working parties will be held in Cote Close from 10 am to 12 noon on the next 4 Wednesdays (i.e. 10th, 17th, 24 and 31st January) to plant cherry and plum tree whips, cut out self-seeded ash trees and generally tidy the site up. Steve will drive the mower and trailer down to transport all the tools. Philip states the fenced off pipe on the site is probably something to do with the water supply to the treatment works.

8. Website/Wildlife Database

Website

Philip and Steve have access to the proposed new website but there are still problems so Steve will speak to Vicky at Devmac tomorrow. It is hoped to have things sorted ready for the meeting at Ian's on Monday 22nd January and if all goes well the new website should be up and running by the end of March.

Philip had taken a list of all our footpaths from the website and suggested that if we each adopted a footpath to walk regularly and note what needed doing we could keep on top of the maintenance. The list was handed round and names added, Philip will type it up and pass it on.

Heather stated she would contact the Footpath Officer at SDDC re relocating the Priory Way footpath sign on Lower Green so that it would be more visible to visitors and residents.

Wildlife Database

Sightings included a flock of Long Tailed Tits in a garden on Hillside, a flock of Pied Wagtails in a field alongside the treatment works and a Buzzard being harassed by 14 Magpies over Heath Lane on New Year's Day. A Tawny Owl was heard on Hazel Close on New Year's Eve.

9. Any other business

Protest walk Swarkestone Causeway Saturday 20th January 2018 10 am

On the whole members were happy to support Melbourne Footpaths Group but some were unhappy about marching along the road with banners and placards. It was left up to individual members to decide whether or not to attend the rally.

Julia asked if we had much contact with the Canal and River Trust. Heather stated that since a change of personnel there we had not had much correspondence. We were promised a list of contacts but never received one. Heather states she will email them re a management plan re the removal of Himalayan Balsam from the towpath.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved: The next meeting will be held in Findern on Monday 5th February 2018 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather Hall.

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