



**Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017, 2017 commencing at 7pm.**

**Present:** Heather Hall (Chair), Liz Lenton, Janet Macdonald, Frances Prockter, Jan Ashford, Steve Tiso, Margaret Tiso

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Joan Tidy, Pat Charge, Ian Humphries, Sheila Hughes, Graham White and Anne Evans.

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

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were circulated and approved as a true record.

**3. Finance and Fundraising**

**Finance**

Joan had given a report that statements had been received and the accounts balanced.

Payments: DD £35.94p for website maintenance

Receipts: interest 0.04p on the reserve account

Current account stands at £1587.29p, reserve account stands at £5021.10p

**Disposal of items no longer required**

Heather reported that items no longer required have been sent to The Old Forge Nursery and items being kept have been moved from Anne Evans garage to Murray's. The group expressed their thanks to Anne for storing them for several months. Liz to send a card.

**Purchase of folding aluminium ladder**

Nothing to report at this meeting

***Resolved : add to agenda of next meeting***

**4. Communications and Notifications**

A thank you card had been received from Frances for some flowers sent to her recently.

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

**i) Bird Box check Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

Jan, Joan and Ian noted 1 Kestrel box and 1 bird box on the oak trees by the A50 underpass and on the T&M canal towpath there are 11 wooden and 1 concrete box (including a Treecreeper box) all in need of repair. Ian identified several trees in various locations that are suitable for the placing of extra bird boxes and stated he is willing to fix the broken boxes and make new ones.

See Wildlife Site Management below - Minute 7 (iii) for working party

## **ii) Meeting with Findern Guides Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Heather, Janet and Steve attended the meeting of Findern Guides and informed them of our projects of the Butterfly Bank and reseeded the wildflower meadow. The Guides are interested in projects for 2 evenings between January and May and 2 evenings between May and July next year. Janet Orme (Guide Captain) will contact Heather re taking this forward.

## **6. Project Planning**

### **i) Name of the group and newsletter**

Steve said that he has the impression that people view the group as rambling group and the name doesn't reflect the full extent of our aims. There was a general discussion that with the loss of the Parish Newsletter there is no longer a way of keeping residents of the village informed of projects we are undertaking and how they could become involved. (it was noted that there is a Facebook page but not everyone accesses it.)

***Resolved : to be added to the agenda of the next meeting***

### **ii) Creating a butterfly bank Cardales Meadow**

Ian has made enquiries at JCB and is awaiting a response.

### **iii) Seeding of Wildflower Meadow**

It has been decided not to spray the area but to scarify it and spread seed in the spring. Heather will send our thanks to Richard Barker for taking the hay off our sites.

## **7. Wildlife Site Management**

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

The team came out on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept and carried out a total of 24 hours unpaid work for and on behalf of the community. (NB 36 hours of work on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept were reported in the minutes of the previous meeting.)

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

A total of 12.5 hours work was carried out on the towpath mainly litter picking and bird box check.

### **iii) Working party dates and tasks for October/November**

- a) Repair of steps at Cote Close : Graham has spoken to Martin Woodhouse re supply of materials and is continuing to scope out the requirements.
- b) Removing birdboxes from towpath for repair : needs to take place late October/early November at a weekend. Jan to contact Ian re his preference.
- c) Maintenance of stiles : Several stiles have now had chicken wire attached. The working party 4<sup>th</sup> Oct cancelled. Further working parties to take place 10am – 12noon on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1<sup>st</sup> Nov and 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. Meet at 10am on Lower Green.

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

### **i) Rushy Meadow Way**

Mr Hicklin has agreed to the planting of an oak tree on his land near to the steps at the end of this footpath.

**ii) Airport Way**

Heather is investigating who owns the land on which this footpath is situated in order that we can ask permission to trim it.

It has been noticed that the seat near Tower House is in need of repair. This is apparently being arranged by the farmer.

**iii) General**

Several finger posts and railings are in need of replacement. It was agreed that Steve could purchase the necessary wood etc for replacements.

**9. Wildlife Database**

Liz reported seeing a flock of long tailed tits on the causeway near the canal.

Heather reported seeing 10 Red Admiral butterflies on Priory Way 18<sup>th</sup> Sept and 3 juvenile wagtails on Commonpiece Lane on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

***Resolved: The next meeting will be held in Findern on Tuesday, 14th November 2017 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather Hall***

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