



Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Monday, 5th February 2018, commencing at 7pm.

Present:

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

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Jan Ashford, Janet Macdonald, Graham White, Margaret Tiso and Anne Evans.

2. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 were circulated and approved as a true record.

3. Finance and Fundraising

Finance

Joan stated statements had been received and the accounts balanced.

Payments: Cheque 000362 for £154.07p for extending ladder and first aid kit items, cheque 000363 for £117.60p for group public liability insurance, cheque 000364 for £25.80p for tree shelters, cheque 000365 for £40 for stone to repair the steps in Cote Close, DD £35.94p for website maintenance

Receipts: 0.20p interest on the reserve account

Current account stands at £916.73p, reserve account stands at £5021.55p

Proposed purchase of a Rotavator

Steve stated that the cost of hiring a Rotavator is £80 per day however; he had looked at several Rotavators and handed round a picture of the one which would suit all our needs and which would cost under £200 to buy. After a general discussion it was put to the vote and all present agreed that Steve should go ahead and purchase it.

Possible need to transfer funds from Reserve account to Current account

Joan asked that as we would possibly be incurring some expense in creating the butterfly bank was it necessary to transfer funds from the reserve account. It was decided not to transfer any funds until we needed to do so.

4. Reports and Evaluations from other meetings/events attended

Heather stated that the removal of the 2 oak trees from Findern Cemetery had gone really well and that the Payback Team and Mr Hicklin had all worked really hard in awful conditions. One tree has been planted in one of Mr Hicklin's fields and the other in Cote Close Bird Sanctuary.

5. Project Planning/Event Planning

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

Heather stated that Mr Hodgkinson had a lot of subsoil on his land and he would be very happy to transfer as much as we need for the bank to Cardales Meadow. Mr Hicklin has said he would be happy to help us build the bank with his mini digger. It was decided to have a site meeting in Cardales Meadow to decide on

the measurement for the bank and then arrange a date amenable to Mr Hodgkinson and Mr Hicklin. As soon as the bank is ready Findern Guides will be asked if they would like to help with seeding the wildflower seed prior to the lime stone chatter being laid on the top.

Resolved: Site meeting is to be held on Friday 9th February at 2 pm in Cardales Meadow

ii) Winter Project for the Payback Team

Frances reported that the bridleway between the railway bridge and Hicklin's Bridge is flooded in places with water running off the field and wondered if this would be a job for the team. Heather stated that the bridleway was surfaced by SDDC and perhaps they should be informed first. Joan will email them.

Ian suggested that perhaps the team could erect a screen with viewing slots at various heights in Cote Close Bird Sanctuary from which people would be able to watch the birds without disturbing them. All agreed this was a good idea so Ian will draw a plan of the screen and list the materials needed to make it. All agreed that an insect hotel would also be advantageous so members were asked to start collecting pallets and old bits of piping etc.

iii) Bat box checks Saturday 26th May 2018 and Saturday 15th September 2018

Dates agreed, Joan will confirm with Steven at the Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group.

iv) Findern Fete Saturday 30th June 2018

It was agreed that we would like to have a stall at this year's fete. Ian will liaise with Adrian and if possible allocate us a space on The Green. Ian will also liaise with Paul re the size of the trailer he has offered us.

v) Discussion re the suggestion to appoint a group 'events organiser'

The main aim is to organise training and social events. Pat and Julia volunteered so when emails are received with dates of events members wishing to attend should liaise with either Pat or Julia so that bookings and transport arrangements etc. can be made.

6. Public Rights of Way Reports

Heather said she had been informed by the farmer that a fingerpost at the end of Priory Way needed repairing, she will have a look and report back.

Philip stated that a tree had fallen at the Ballast Hole Pond and was covering the dipping platform. As this was not actually blocking the towpath it wasn't known whether the Canal and River Trust (C&RT) would deal with it or whether we should do it ourselves. It was also noted that the 2 horseshoe shaped paths alongside the towpath also needed some maintenance and the tables and seats needed cleaning.

Resolved: It was agreed that Heather would get the payback team to clean the seats and tables and that Joan would email the C&RT re the fallen tree. Members also asked if it could be ascertained whether there were any plans to improve the towpath which at present is a mud bath between Stenson and almost into Willington.

7. Wildlife Site Management

i) Hours of work carried out by the payback team

The team came out on 20th January and 27th January and carried out a total of 72 hours unpaid work for and on behalf of the community

ii) Risk Assessments

Steve reported that our Risk Assessments needed updating and asked if there was anyone on the ground maintenance team at SDDC who would have ready-made risk assessments for tasks such as use of tools, ladders and other equipment. Joan will email SDDC.

iii) Replacing of new and repaired bird boxes

Ian has almost finished the boxes; a date for installation is to be made at the next meeting

Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda for a date

iv) Proposal of how to deal with very muddy bottom end of Cote Close Bird Sanctuary

Various suggestions were made such as using stone or tree bark. Heather will ask Martin's advice.

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

v) Liaison with Canal and River Trust re tackling of Himalayan Balsam on the canal towpath

See under Public Rights of Way Reports – Joan will include this in her email to C&RT

8. Website/Wildlife Database

Philip stated that to upgrade the software on the website would cost at least £200. He is still working on the redesign and will have a full report at the next meeting.

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

Frances reported that she had seen a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly in her house and Heather reported seeing a Treecreeper at 10 am on the 29th January near the treatment works.

9. Any other business

Ian proposed a Dawn Chorus Walk to be held at the beginning of May. A date will be decided at the next meeting and liaison made with Lindsay at Bees Teas re breakfast after the walk.

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

10. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved: The next meeting will be held in Findern on Wednesday 28th February 2018 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather Hall

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