



Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Thursday 6th April 2017, commencing at 7pm.

Present:

Heather Hall (Chair), Joan Tidy, Frances Prockter, Sheila Hughes and Pat Charge

Heather began by welcoming Pat to the meeting

1. To receive apologies for absence

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

2. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting(s)

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Thursday 2nd March 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.

Payments: DD £35.94p for website maintenance.

Receipts: 0.04p interest on the reserve account.

Current account stands at £2012.63p. Reserve account stands at £5020.85p.

Joan states as it is now the end of the financial year the accounts have gone off for audit.

4. Communications and Notifications

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

i) Heather stated she had received an email from Wayne Ball C&RT

He has asked us to let him know what work we had carried out on the towpath since July 2016. Joan will check previous minutes in an effort to find an answer for him. Heather states she will ask him what is happening about the improvement to the boardwalk and the 3 year plan to eradicate the Himalayan Balsam.

ii) Complaints about the padlock on the gate Crow Park Way

Heather states she received a complaint from a farmer who was unable to open the padlock. She states she has replaced the padlock and informed the landowners of the new combination. (Joan has the receipt for £24.75p for reimbursement to be paid when the books are back from audit)

iii) Security of the garages at the rear of the Parish Rooms

It transpires that the garages are now linked into the alarm for Bees Teas which causes problems when we want to access the garages when the tea rooms are closed. It was decided to ask the parish council for the garages to be on a separate alarm system. Joan will email the parish clerk.

5. Reports and Evaluations from other meetings/events attended

i) Working Party Sunday 19th March 2017

All signs and information boards except Turnpike Way were cleaned and the stiles on The Gostilles were cleared of vegetation. A good afternoon's work done by Jan, Joan, Frances and Liz and many thanks to Mr and Mrs Parnell who came along to help.

ii) Meeting of Willington Footpaths and Open Space Group Monday 27th March 2107

Joan, Heather and Jan attended the meeting which was very well attended by residents of all ages. The group is part of Willington Parish Council and meets on the last Monday of every month. We told them about our group and what we do and offered some advice on the pitfalls they may encounter as they get established. They were invited to attend one of our meetings and if they'd like to see what we've done we'd happily shown them around our footpaths and wildlife sites.

6. Project Planning

i) Butterfly Transect 2017

Rota completed to the end of May

Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda to complete the rota for June

ii) Creating a butterfly bank – meeting on site in Cardales Meadow Sunday 9th April 1030 am

Joan explained what a butterfly bank is and states she will meeting Ken Orpe on site at 1030 am and it is hoped members of Findern Parish Council will also be attending.

iii) Surveying Cardales Meadow re Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status

Heather states the Meadow was last surveyed in 2011 when we were 2 species short of the requirement to be granted Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status. She contacted Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) and they have agreed to carry out another survey in July.

7. Event Planning

i) A38 Litter pick

Heather states she reported the litter to District Councillor Macpherson and this has now been cleared.

ii) Bird Box check and clean and purchase and installation of new ones

It was agreed that now is not the time to clean the boxes and as there is no record of where the boxes are it was decided to walk round the sites in August and make a record of where the boxes are, which ones need mending or replacing, and to carry out the work in September.

Resolved: This item will be added to August's agenda to arrange a date

iii) Dawn Chorus Walk Saturday 6th May 2017 5 am

Meet on Lower Green. Lindsay at Bees Teas has said she can provide a bacon cob and tea/filter coffee (with refill) for £6, however she needs at least 10 pre-booked and prepaid orders to make opening early viable. Heather agreed to take bookings and collect money to be given to Lindsay on Friday 5th May so she can buy stuff in ready for Saturday. Joan will do the poster and distribute it.

Resolved: This item is to be added to May's agenda for update.

iv) Bat Box checks Saturday 27th May 2017 and purchase and installation of new boxes

No further update on which boxes or how many or from where to get them.

Resolved: This item is to be added to May's agenda for update.

v) Summer Evening Wildflower identification walk Friday 9th June 2017 7 pm

Meet on the village green at 7pm. Debbie Alston will lead the walk and it will be followed by refreshments at the Methodist Chapel. It was agreed to charge £3 per person to cover costs. Joan will do the poster.

Resolved: This item is to be added to May's agenda for update.

vi) Findern Village Fete Saturday 24th June 2017

As there were only a few members present it is not known how many of us will be available for the fete.

Resolved: This item is to be added to May's agenda for further discussion.

8. Public Rights of Way Reports

Priory Way

Heather states the 'concessionary path' and 'keep dogs under close control' signs are now in situ and she has taken photographs of them. She states work has been done around the boardwalk but this now needs a rail. She will ask Paul to see if he is able to make and fit the rail. Heather will contact Emma to see if she is still keen to do the leaflet. It was agreed to do a publicised walk along the route to let residents know it has been improved. The walk will take place on Tuesday 27th June 2017; meet on Lower Green at 6.30pm. Joan will do the posters.

9. Wildlife Site Management

i) Hours of work carried out by the payback team

Heather states the team came out on 4th March and 11th March and carried out a total of 78 hours of unpaid work for and on behalf of the community.

ii) Hours of work carried out on the canal towpath

Heather states she has carried out 8 hours work mainly litter picking.

iii) Cote Close planting of fruit trees in cleared areas

As the ground is too hard now it was decided not to plant the area until September. It is anticipated that we will plant 1 red Rowan, 1 red Cotoneaster and 1 yellow Cotoneaster.

iv) Working party tasks for April

Heather states that Graham has liaised with Ian and Richard re the mowing and Joan asked if they could mow the circle in Cardales Meadow for the butterfly transect. Another working party is scheduled for Friday 28th April, meet on Lower Green at 6 pm and bring shears, secateurs and loppers. Tasks will be decided nearer the time and will depend on how many volunteers turn up. Joan will update the website and email those residents who have volunteered to help.

10. Wildlife Database

Joan reported that a pair of swans had nested near the Nadee and there were 3 eggs in the nest. A resident had reported seeing 2 Peregrine on the cooling towers at Willington Power Station.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved: The next meeting will be held in Findern on Thursday 4th May 2017 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather.

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