



Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Monday 26th March 2018 commencing at 7pm.

Present:

Heather Hall (Chair), Joan Tidy, Anne Evans, Sheila Hughes, Steve Tiso, Margaret Tiso, Liz Lenton, Janet Macdonald, Julia Cross, Philip Cross, Jan Ashford, Stephen Parnell and Rod Bassett

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Frances Prockter, Graham White, Maureen Parnell and Pat Charge

2. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Wednesday 28th February 2018 were circulated and approved as a true record.

3. Finance and Fundraising

Finance

Joan stated statements had not been received so the accounts have not been balanced yet.

Payments: DD £35.94p for website maintenance, cheque 000367 for £43.06p for website and email set up, cheque 000368 for £42.99p for marker paint and 4" spikes.

Receipts: none

Current account stands at £632.80p, reserve account stands at £5021.78p

Joan stated that after receipt of the bank statements the accounts would be balanced and then taken to Findern Parish Clerk for audit.

Purchase of Rotavator

Steve reported that the Rotavator is not required at present

Proposal to set up an account with Woodgrow Horticulture

Joan reported that she had enquired at the bank and we can't set up a BACS account as we can't do internet banking as cheques have to be signed by 2 group members. Members asked if we could not have petty cash for small amounts. Joan stated that when we were part of the Parish Council we couldn't but as we are now a stand-alone group she will look into the matter.

4. Reports and Evaluations from other meetings/events attended

i) Butterfly identification course Calke Abbey Saturday 17th March 2018

Janet, Pat, Jan, Frances and Heather attended the course and found it very informative. Janet said she had learnt a lot and they all found it very enjoyable.

ii) Litter picking with Findern Primary School pupils Thursday 22nd March 2018

Heather, Jan, Julia, Rod, Pat, Liz and Joan attended and helped the children pick up 21 bags of rubbish along the route from school to Hillside playing field, from the field itself and on the return journey to school.

iii) Meeting with C&RT Friday 23rd March 2018

Steve, Heather and Joan met Steve Taylor and other volunteers at the Nadee. We outlined our plans for our section of the towpath which included extending a board walk across a very wet area and trying to

eradicate the Himalayan Balsam. The volunteers were working from 10 am to 1 pm and Steve explained that they would be removing the fallen tree from the Ballast Hole Pond and generally tidying the area up. Steve explained the volunteers work every other Friday from 10 am to 1 pm and have a wide area to cover, he will let us know when they are next in Findern so we can go along and do our bit.

5. Project Planning/Event Planning

i) Creation of butterfly bank and reseeded Cardales Meadow

Mr Hicklin has taken 4 half loads of soil from Mercia Marina to the site but it became too wet and the tractor was making too many ruts so he will carry on when it has dried out. Steve states another 10 loads of soil are required before we can begin seeding and it is hoped to be finished by the end of April. It is hoped to get a roller in to try and sort out the ruts. It has been suggested that we hold an event to celebrate its completion so that we can thank all those who have helped us especially Mr Hicklin and Robert and the Marina.

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

ii) Winter Project for the Payback Team

The Payback team came out on Saturday 10th March and Saturday 17th March and carried out 66 hours of unpaid work for and on behalf of the community. At present we have enough work for them so the winter project may be put on hold until next winter.

iii) Butterfly Transect Rota

Rota completed up to the 1st week in May.

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

iv) Dawn Chorus Walk Saturday 5th May 2018

Joan states she has asked Lindsay at Bees for a price and minimum/maximum numbers she can cater for but is still waiting for her reply. Heather states she will liaise with Lindsay

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

v) Findern Fete Saturday 30th June 2018

It was agreed that as well as setting up our display boards and explaining what we do around our wildlife sites and footpaths we need to fund raise as well. Members are asked to bring ideas to the next meeting

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

vi) Proposed outing to The Forge, Codnor Park, Sunday 20th May 2018 11am-3pm

No one is available to attend this event

vii) Proposed outing to Hoe Grange Quarry Butterfly Reserve Sunday 17th June 2018 11am-4pm

Heather, Janet, Philip, Julia, Liz, Pat and Joan are all interested in attending this event

6. Public Rights of Way Reports

Trent and Mersey Canal Towpath

Julia reported that the path into Jubilee Wood is extremely wet and is in need of a board walk. Heather stated that C&RT were aware of the problem and that although it is off the towpath itself it is still their responsibility. Julia also reported that there were a lot of redundant plastic tree guards which needed removing and Steve stated the volunteers were going to do that on Friday 23rd and Joan confirmed that they had done that and also cleared a large amount of self-seeded Alders from around the old oak tree.

Airport Way

Heather states the Payback Team have replaced the finger post at the Porters Lane end. Joan reported that she had looked into the price of replacing the seat and that a sleeper seat would cost about £125-£200 depending on the size but delivery would add an extra £100 at least. Heather states she will liaise with Martin at Woodgrow Horticulture to get advice.

The Gostilles

Jan reported that whilst litter picking with the schoolchildren she noticed that an upright post on one of the stiles at the Heath Lane end is broken and in need of repair.

7. Wildlife Site Management

i) Offer of a memorial bench and metal sculpture of flowers and a butterfly (see email)

Members agreed that it would be nice at top of wildflower meadow looking down so those seated could enjoy the view of the whole meadow. It was agreed that rather than a separate seat and sculpture it would be more suitable to incorporate the butterfly and flower theme within the bench. Joan will email FPC

ii) Risk Assessments

Steve states he is still in the process of printing and laminating all our risk assessments.

iii) Replacing bird boxes

Heather will ask Ian for a date to replace the boxes and email everyone

iv) Wednesday working parties

Steve states the working parties will start again on 11th April. The first will be from 10am-12noon and will be in Cote Close Bird Sanctuary. Heather has a list of materials required and Joan will accompany her to Woodgrow to get them for the 11th.

8. Website/Wildlife Database

Amendments to website

Philip states he still requires accurate descriptions of footpaths with photographs if possible.

Domain name renewal

Philip states the domain name renewal for www.finderfootpathsgroup.org is due in June. At present anyone using this address is automatically forwarded to our new website so it was decided to renew it for another year. Joan states this is done by direct debit and costs £14.39p.

Emails requiring action

Philip states an email has been received from The Forge Nursery asking if they could have some of the cut wood from the towpath for a project. Heather states it is technically the property of the C&RT but that they do not mind boaters taking the wood so there shouldn't be a problem. Philip will reply.

Philip said an email had been received from a lady who had been out walking by the Mercia Marina Pond but her walk had been spoilt by the number of dogs running in and out of the lake and disturbing the wildlife. She had mentioned this to staff at the Marina but they had not seemed interested. As we have adopted a stretch of the towpath (not by the Marina) she wondered if we could do anything. All agreed that disturbing the wildlife is not to be tolerated and Philip will reply to the lady and also contact the Robert at the Marina to see if some signs could be put up asking for dogs to be kept under control

9. Any other business

Members are asked for suggestions as to how to celebrate the group's 20th anniversary.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved: The next meeting will be held in Findern on Wednesday 2nd May 2018 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather Hall.

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