



Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Wednesday 28th February 2018 commencing at 7pm.

Present:

Heather Hall (Chair), Joan Tidy, Steve Tiso, Sheila Hughes, Philip Cross, Julia Cross, Janet Macdonald, Jan Ashford, Frances Prockter, Rod Bassett, Ian Humphries and possible new members Stephen and Maureen Parnell

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Graham White, Liz Lenton, Margaret Tiso, Pat Charge and Anne Evans

2. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Monday 5th February 2018 were circulated and approved as a true record.

3. Finance and Fundraising

Finance

Joan stated that statements had not yet been received.

Payments: DD £35.94p for website maintenance, cheque 000366 for £126.00p for stone to repair Cote Close.

Current account stands at £754.79p, reserve account stands at £5021.55p

Steve states he is still looking into the purchase of a Rotavator and thinks he can get one of those and a chain saw for the same price he was going to pay for the Rotavator (£200).

Suggestion about whether we should have an account with Woodgrow Horticulture as we get most if not all our supplies from them. Heather will speak to Woodgrow about the advisability of this suggestion.

Resolved: Both these items are to be added to the next agenda for further discussion

4. Reports and Evaluations from other meetings/events attended

No other meetings attended.

5. Project Planning/Event Planning

i) Creation of butterfly bank and reseeding in Cardales Meadow

Steve states this is the ideal time to get the soil delivered. Heather and Steve will try and meet Mr Hodgkinson on Friday after the meeting with the Canal and River Trust to see if he is able to deliver the soil as soon as possible. Heather states the payback team have cleared the area around the gate so access should be easier.

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

ii) Winter Project for the Payback Team

Ian has looked at the cost of the birdwatching screen: the spikes are approx. £8.99 each and we need 5, the posts are £10.49 each and we need 3, 18x119x2400 tongue and groove panels are £6.99 each and

will cost approx. £70 making a total cost of under £200. Heather will get Martin at Woodgrow to liaise with Ian directly re the supply of these materials.

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

iii) Dawn Chorus Walk first weekend in May 2018

Date decided Saturday 5th May meet Lower Green at 5 am. Joan will liaise with Bee at Bees Teas re minimum/maximum number she can cater for breakfast rolls etc. and obtain a price.

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

iv) Findern Fete Saturday 30th June 2018

Several group members volunteered to man a stall at the fete and as well as publicising exactly what we do it is hoped to do some fundraising so several ideas were put forward including a suggestion that we compile a wildlife identification quiz for various age groups.

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

6. Public Rights of Way Reports

i) Priory Way

Heather reports that Mr Parnell has offered to repair the rotten fingerpost at the end of Priory Way so Heather will provide him with the metal spoke for it to go in.

ii) Airport Way

Heather asks are we intending to replace the seat at Airport Way. Joan will surf the net and bring some prices to the next meeting. Members also suggested whether it would be worth asking for a sponsor to either fund or part fund the bench. It was agreed to look into this when the type of bench and a price have been decided.

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

7. Wildlife Site Management

i) Hours of work carried out by the payback team

The Payback team came out on 17th February and 24th February and carried out a total of 70 hours unpaid work for and on behalf of the community.

ii) Hours of work carried out on the canal towpath

A total of 8 hours were spent along the towpath mainly litter picking

iii) Risk Assessments

Steve states he is still in the process of printing off all the risk assessments and is making good headway.

iv) Replacing of new and repaired bird boxes

Ian has almost finished all the repairs etc. so the boxes should be ready to go up by the end of March.

Resolved: This item is to be added to the next agenda for dates to be decided to carry out the work

8. Website redesign

Philip states he has found a UK firm to host the website for £14 for a year so he has set it up for 12 months and he states although the next year will be slightly more expensive it will be nowhere near what we are currently paying. Members had been forwarded the link to the new site which is now called 'findernfootpaths.co.uk' and as can be seen it focuses on conservation as well as footpaths. If all agree he proposes to take out the 'gallery' pages as photographs will be accompanying text on the other pages. He also proposes to create a separate page for each of our footpaths with photographs and text giving walk details. He has asked members to check the website and let him have any amendments or additions so that he can get it up and running as soon as possible. He also asked that when members are out and about they take photographs of the flora and fauna of the seasons so he can keep the website up to date. It is noted that the email address will change so Joan will inform all our contacts of our new email address as soon as it is up and running.

All members approved the changes to the website and agreed that we should leave our current website host before the next monthly payment is due on the 15th March. Philip will draft an email to be sent to our current website host informing them of our decision.

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

9. Wildlife Database

Heather reported a male Buzzard sitting on the picnic table on King George V playing field on Monday morning, Jan saw a Sparrowhawk take a Collared Dove on Hillside on the 18th and Heather saw a Woodpecker by the flats on Longlands Lane but couldn't tell which one.

10. Any other business

i) Butterfly Transect Rota – next meeting

Joan and Jan will take the first week beginning 1st April and the rest of the rota can be completed at the next meeting

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

ii) Butterfly id course cancelled now on Saturday 17th March

Pat informed Heather that the id course scheduled for the Saturday 5th March had been cancelled and rescheduled for the Saturday 17th March. Heather, Frances, Jan and Janet elected to attend if spaces are still available. Heather will inform Pat

iii) Findern Well Dressing

Jan stated the theme of this year's well dressing is butterflies and she had plenty of photographs but would be grateful if someone would like to write a bit about the annual transect to accompany them.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved: The next meeting will be held in Findern on Monday 26th March 2018 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather.

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