



**Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 commencing at 7pm.**

**Present:**

Heather Hall (Chair), Joan Tidy, Liz Lenton, Julia Cross, Philip Cross, Ian Humphries, Stephen Parnell, Jan Ashford, Graham White and Pat Charge

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Janet Macdonald, Frances Prockter, Sheila Hughes, Steve Tiso, Margaret Tiso, Anne Evans and Rod Bassett.

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

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were circulated and approved as a true record.

**3. Finance and Fundraising**

**Finance**

Joan stated statements had been received and the accounts balanced, however, the books were with Findern Parish Clerk for audit.

Payments: Cheque 000369 for £107.10p for materials for the bird screen in Cote Close.

Receipts: 0.20p interest on the reserve account.

Current account stands at £525.70p, reserve account stands at £5022.17p.

**To approve appointment of new treasurer**

All members approved of Philip taking over from Joan as treasurer and agreed that Janet and Joan would be counter signatories. Philip was authorised to change accounts within Nat West from a business account to a community account as this would enable on line banking and allow funds to be transferred directly into other accounts thereby lessening the use of cheques.

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

There having been no other events or meetings attended there is nothing to report.

**5. Project Planning/Event Planning**

**i) Creation of a butterfly bank in Cardales Meadow**

Heather states Mr Hicklin has asked about transferring some more soil from the Marina to the site, however, as the ground is still very soft it was decided to leave it until the ground is firmer.

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

**ii) Butterfly Transect Rota**

Rota completed up until 9<sup>th</sup> June

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

**iii) Erection of a bird viewing screen Cote Close Bird Sanctuary**

Ian and the Payback Team worked very hard and the screen is now in place. There is still a little bit more to do and it will then be painted and should be finished by the end of the month.

**iv) Dawn Chorus Walk Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Heather reports 13 for the walk and 10 for the breakfast at Bees Teas.

**v) Bat Box check Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Joan will let Steve at the DBCG know to leave a sign in their windscreen when parking by the Nadee. She will also let him know that there are 2 new bat boxes to be put up and a replacement front is to be put on a box on the old oak tree off the towpath.

**vi) Findern Fete Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Joan prepared a rough draft for a wildlife quiz which Ian has taken away to improve on. It was agreed that we would take the display boards and not to fund raise but to outline what projects we wanted to do and to have a bucket for donations. It was agreed that the display boards need updating with more current photos and information. Heather will check with Lindsay at Bees Teas and if she agrees Joan, Ian, Julia, Philip, Heather and Jan will meet there on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 2 pm to make amendments.

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

**vii) Findern Guides Programme**

It was originally planned to have the Guides help with planting the butterfly bank, however, as this is not ready yet other suggestions for a project were for them to design new bird feeders for Cote Close Bird Sanctuary or paint the lettering on the fingerposts within the village. Heather will liaise with Steve and then contact the Guides leader.

**viii) Findern Footpaths Group 20 year celebration**

It was agreed to hold an event in the village hall and invite people from other organisations who have helped and advised the group over the years. Heather will make a list of invitees and Jan will look at Costco with a view to ordering sandwiches etc. Ian will make the cake. Date chosen is Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018 but no decision whether day time or evening. Heather will liaise with Gwen at the village hall re availability.

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

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

**i) Airport Way**

Heather reported that the gateway at the top of Porter's Lane at the beginning of Airport Way is frequently being used by people parking cars and taking drugs amongst other things. Mr Parnell has said he would happily move the gate nearer the road to prevent them parking there. Heather will liaise with Lynn Taylor, Footpaths Officer at DCC, re the feasibility of this.

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

**ii) Trent and Mersey Canal towpath**

Heather stated she had emailed the Canal and River Trust to report a damage (rotten) wooden seat on the towpath between the Nadee and Potlocks Bridge. She has received an email in reply from Scott Miller who says he has passed details of the bench to Steve Taylor (volunteer coordinator C&RT). Scott also said he would be arranging a meeting with us in the near future to discuss future projects etc.

## **7. Wildlife Site Management**

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

Heather stated the team came out on 21<sup>st</sup> April and carried out 30 hrs of unpaid work for and on behalf of the community. SDDC have now started to charge £50 a time when the team use Brook Close for their comfort and refreshments breaks; this was paid for by Findern Parish Council. She states she had no dates for them to come out in May and that they may not be coming out to us any more as the powers that be want to send the teams where they could make more revenue.

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

An estimated 8 hours work was carried out on the towpath mainly litter picking

**iii) Working party dates and tasks**

Dates agreed are Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, meet on Lower Green at 7 pm, and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May, meet on Lower Green at 10 am.

**iv) Siting of memorial bench**

Joan stated she had given details of suppliers of memorial benches and possible sites for the bench and the lady was going to get back to her with the design chosen and the location for the bench to be sited. As yet no reply has been received. It was decided not to chase the family up but to wait until they contact us.

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

**v) Bird box replacement**

Ian reported that 12 bird boxes had been installed and some are already being used.

**vi) Litter Pick along the towpath**

Liz proposed a litter pick on the towpath. Date decided Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May; meet on Lower Green at 10 am to collect sticks, hoops and bags.

**vii) Cote Close Bird Sanctuary**

Steve stated on the last work party it was awkward getting to remove tree shelters as the brambles had encroached so much so he suggested that a path should be cleared regularly. It was also agreed to leave tree shelters on those trees which were still very thin. He stated he had some Foxgloves, Forget-me-nots, Ox-eye daises and Harebells spare and would they be of use. It was agreed that they could be planted on the banks leading down to the underpass and also in Cardales Wildflower Meadow. It was also suggested that wildflowers could be planted on the waste ground at the side of the King George V playing field.

**8. Wildlife Database**

Nothing to report

**9. Any other business**

No other business

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

**Resolved: The next meeting will be held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather Hall**

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