



Minutes of the Findern Footpaths Group meeting held at Murray's, 25 Main Street, Findern, on Wednesday 6th June 2018 commencing at 7pm.

Present:

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

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Stephen Parnell, Maureen Parnell, Pat Charge and Graham White.

2. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the Footpaths Group meeting held on Wednesday 2nd May 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 000370 for £26.50p for paint and nails for the bird screen, cheque 000371 for £14 for more paint for the bird screen

Receipts: 0.22p interest on the reserve account, £385 minor maintenance grant from Findern Parish Council paid into the current account

Current account stands at £870.20p, reserve account stands at £5022.39p

Philip states he has the forms to fill in to open an account to facilitate internet banking, Joan and Janet will be counter signatories.

Proposed Purchase of a petrol hedge cutter

As most stiles and kissing gates etc. have hedges either side which needed regular cutting back at this time of year Steve proposed that we purchase a petrol hedge cutter which would do the job quicker and more efficiently. He has seen a really good one in Argos for approx. £112. All present agreed that it was a good idea and authorisation was given for the purchase.

4. Reports and Evaluations from other meetings/events attended

i) Dawn Chorus Walk Saturday 5th May 2018

Again this annual walk was very well attended and in all 30 species seen and/or heard. Thanks given to Ian for leading the walk and Lindsay at Bees Teas for tea and bacon butties afterwards.

ii) Litter Pick Thursday 17th May 2018

Pat, Liz and Sheila walked the banks of Heath Lane over A50 bridge and collected 3 bags of rubbish which Heather disposed of.

iii) Bat box check Saturday 26th May 2018

Joan joined Alan and Steve from the Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group for the annual bat box check. Several boxes along the towpath were found to be home to Blue Tit families and several contained evidence of bat visits. 2 boxes were found to contain a Soprano Pipistrelle and a Leisler's bat was found in a box in Cote Close Bird Sanctuary. Long-eared bat droppings were also found in a box in Cote Close. It

was noted that the Kestrel nest box on the oak tree by the A50 underpass is hanging off so it Heather and Ian will take it down and re-site it.

5. Project Planning/Event Planning

i) Butterfly Bank Cardales Meadow

Heather reports that the payback team are to continue building the bank into the correct size and shape and it will then be allowed to settle before being seeded in September. Limestone chatter will be required as soon as the meadow has been mown for hay, again in September. Heather reported that Ian and Caroline had worked very hard to fill and flatten the ruts for which we are extremely grateful. It was agreed for Heather to buy a bottle of Port as a thank you. Mr Hicklin had also worked very hard transporting the soil for the bank from Mercia Marina to the site so Heather will also purchase a gift for him to show our appreciation. Findern Guides were going to help seed the bank but due to the atrocious spring weather this has been put off until September so Heather has rung the lady in charge of the Girl Guides to update her but has received no reply.

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

ii) Butterfly Transect Rota

Rota completed up to the beginning of August

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

iii) Butterfly Open Day Hoe Grange Quarry Sunday 17th June 2018

Several members interested in attending this event will liaise with each other re transport

iv) Findern Fete Saturday 30th June 2018 – to include purchase of red tops with FFG logo

Julia, Philip, Jan, Joan and Heather are meeting at Bees Teas on Friday to decorate the display boards. Some members required red tops so Joan will order these when she goes on the 15th and they should be ready for Fete day.

v) Group 20 year celebration Saturday 13th October 2018

It was agreed to hold a 'Pop in' event from 12 noon until 2 pm. Heather will book the village hall for Saturday 13th October from 11 am until 3 pm to allow for setting up and clearing away

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

6. Public Rights of Way Reports

Airport Way

Heather had not had chance to speak to Mr Parnell re moving the gate. However, she had spoken to one of the residents who lived nearby who was in favour of the gate being moved to stop the gateway being used by youths in cars for antisocial behaviour. Heather will speak to Mr Parnell as soon as possible.

7. Wildlife Site Management

i) Hours of work carried out by the payback team

Heather states the team came out on 12th May and 19th May and carried out a total of 96 hours unpaid work for and on behalf of the community. This Saturday the team will be doing more work on the construction of the butterfly bank in Cardales Meadow

ii) Hours of work carried out on the canal towpath

A total of 9 hrs was spent on the towpath balsam pulling and litter picking

iii) Proposed Memorial bench

Joan had received an email from the lady in Canada to say the family have shelved the idea for a bench for the moment. She is visiting the UK later this year and will give the matter some more thought. She was thanked for her email and advised to contact us again if we could be of further assistance

iv) Need to update storage facilities behind the parish rooms

Steve states the Parish Council have given permission for us to put a metal shed in the back of the parish rooms. He had looked into the cost but it was thought it best to discuss this with the Parish Council as it was their property and therefore covered by their insurance Steve also stated that petrol should be stored outside the garage and in a container suitably signed that it contained flammable liquid. If the shed is obtained this and the garages could have shelves fitted so tools etc could be clearly seen. Heather agreed to liaise with the Parish Council re these proposals

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

v) Working party dates and tasks

It was agreed to hold working parties on Wednesday 13th, 20th, 27th June from 10am-12 noon (meet on Lower Green) and the tasks would be clearing stiles, A frames and seats. It was also decided to hold another working party on Wednesday 20th June from 7 pm-9pm to be spent strimming the balsam on the towpath and litter picking. Heather and Ian will collect the strimmers and litter pickers from the parish rooms at 6.30 and meet the rest of the working party at the Nadee at 7 pm.

8. Wildlife Database

Ian reported a Hedgehog as a regular visitor to Hazel Close, Heather had seen a Fox near A50 underpass and Joan had seen a Green Woodpecker and a pair of Bullfinch in her back garden. All sightings put on the database

9. Any other business

Heather states she has been given some Willow whips, Ian suggests putting them in Cote Close in front of the bird screen. He added that Ian and Caroline have a large tree trunk in the paddock and they have offered to cut an end off so it can be placed in front of the screen to be used as a bird feeder.

Steve has some packets of wildflower seed which he proposes to sow in the flattened ruts in Cardales Meadow.

Complying with GDPR – all members are happy for their details to be kept on the computer (which is password protected) and to receive emails. Joan explained that in future on all emails sent to multiple addressees said addresses would be listed under BCC to protect privacy. All stored paper files will be checked and any out of date or no longer required will be shredded and all computer files deleted.

The group BBQ will be held at Ian’s on Sunday 26th August 2018 at 4 pm.

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 4th July 2018 commencing at 7pm and will be chaired by Heather Hall

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