

Allington Hill Volunteers Committee Meeting

Tuesday 8 May 2017

Present: Cathy Harvey (Chair), Sal Robinson (Treasurer), Jo George, Kevin Trott, Paul Bowditch.

1. Apologies.

Tim Smith and Deanne Trott sent their apologies.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 14 March 2017.

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising.

Given that the tractor is not used that much a service is not urgent – maybe in the Autumn / when Andrew can fit it in.

4. Treasurer's Report.

a) General Accounts as at 7 May 2017

- Total funds = £1,161.23.95.
- Amount set aside = £85.58. (£66.75 Young Volunteer Award, £18.83 for Cooper's Circle.).
- There is £1,085.65 available to spend.

b) Forthcoming Expenditure.

Garage rent –£574.07 (APC get the VAT back do we don't pay that bit to them)
Tractor insurance – approx. £150

c) Potential Income.

- i. Money from collection and sale of yellow rattle seed
- ii. West Bay Car Boot Fund for Family Activities
- iii. AONB grant for Family Activities
- iv. Aiden's Amble for Family Activities
- v. Palmers grant for Family Activities

AGREED not to apply to Bridport Town Council for a grant this year.

AGREED that when funds in a reserve drop below £20 the money ceases to be reserved and goes into the general pot.

Allington Parish Council meets tomorrow – Cathy has written to them pointing out that we now have overheads which we didn't have before (garage rent and the tractor insurance), so we hope to get a reasonable grant.

5. Coopers Wood and Field.

a) Flower Meadow.

The follower meadow is doing well and the yellow rattle is coming into flower. But we do need some rain.

b) Cooper's Circle.

People using it on a casual basis are using it responsibly

The wheelie bin is being used for rubbish

Cathy has made bunting which will be used to indicate that the circle has been booked for an event.

Sarah Worner is looking after bookings.

A "digital" padlock will be bought for the main gate so that someone does not have to go and open it if booked circle users want to take a vehicle into the field

c) Other.

We are getting a simple bench type seat made for the right hand top corner of Cooper's Field.

The two bench seats at the top middle of Cooper's Field have been repaired and replaced.

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6. Allington Hill.

Paul Allen, our new Woodland Trust manager, visited the hill with Jon and Cathy on 24 April. The hill has been granted extra funding to make some of the paths safer (not less muddy), but some are at such an acute angle they will be levelled out. This hopefully will include through the Beech Avenue, the area leading from the short flight of steps from Park Road and along the path directly behind Cooper's Field. Some clearance work will be done on scrub to cut it back from the pathways to allow more air and light on to the paths, to help them dry out quicker. He was extremely impressed with the community's work in Cooper's Wood and Field and the activity events. He is very keen on looking at better ways to manage the grassland on top of the hill and will be doing soil tests to explore the best way forward as the area can't be grazed. Apparently, there is a rich and diverse selection of wild plants and grasses, which he is very keen to protect. So, we will be doing some work in the area most people know as Devil's Bowl.

7. 4 by 4 Access.

The Woodland Trust has no objection to us having a 4 by 4 driven by a professional to take people like Mrs Barnes and Jane Dibden up to the top of the hill. However, Jurassic Safari do not appear to be interested.

8. Events.

- a) **Friday 16 June – Kipp and Kate bracken rolling.** This looks after itself.
- b) **Saturday 17 June 11.00 to 15.00 - Heritage Event in conjunction with Bridport Museum + Fun Run (Aiden's Amble) + Family Picnic.** Kipp and Kate will do a logging demonstration. Maybe woodland craft demonstrations. Cathy will do posters.
 - a. We will have self serve refreshments, tombola, kid's lucky dip, children's sports and a kick boxing demonstration.
 - b. The banner will be put up on the railing at the Town Hall to advertise the event.
 - c. Cathy suggested buying some collecting tins for donation for Aiden's Amble.
- c) **13 -15 July – 190th Anniversary of St Swithuns Church.** Jo has arranged for us to have a table – we can put display boards on it. We will also be “decorating” a church vestment with material from the field, wood and hill.
- d) **24 August – Melplash Show.** The Woodland Trust has a stall – we will see if we can have an A board or something.

9. Working Parties.

- a) Saplings have been planted to increase diversity of species, with small copse outside the 5-a-side football pitch, and specimens on the edges of Cooper's Wood.
- b) The willow arbour near the mushroom seats has been replanted with whips
- c) Paul will mow as needed during the summer.

10. Any Other Business.

There have been complaints that the Woodland Trust's contractors have cut bluebells etc when mowing the paths on the hill. Cathy will report this to Paul Allen.

Signed:Date: