

Allington Hill Volunteers Committee Meeting

Thursday 28 April 2016

Present: Cathy Harvey (Chair), Sal Robinson (Treasurer), Tim Smith, Paul Bowditch and Kevin Trott.

1. Apologies.

Deanne Trott, Jo George and Roly Boughton sent their apologies.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 28 January 2016.

The minutes were agreed.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Where We Are.

Cathy gave a brief recap for where we are, especially with the AONB grant and the Coopers Wood Management Plan.

4. Treasurer's Report

a) General Accounts.

Amount set aside = £66.75 Young Volunteer Award

Actual Balance £234.64, less amount set aside gives £167.89 available to spend.

£31.49 is owed to us by Allington Parish Council.

b) Garage.

A full year's garage rent (April 2016 to March 2017) has been paid via Allington Parish Council at a cost of £585.24, which is net of VAT.

c) Postcode Local Fund Grant.

We have been successful in obtaining a grant of £1825 from the Postcode Lottery Fund for

Hedge Restoration	£100
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Flower Meadow Project	£250
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Mini Tractor	£1500.
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d) Other Grants / Donations.

Jon Harvey made an application to NARPO (National Association of Retired Police Officers) for a grant towards the mini tractor but it was significantly oversubscribed and we were not one of the lucky ones.

A private donation of £1,000 towards the mini tractor has been made – it was conditional on obtaining other grant funding, which we have done.

The Bridport Carnival organisers have asked if we would like have a small grant – Cathy has said “yes please”.

e) Request for Funding from Allington Parish Council.

APC had promised to give a grant of £1,000 towards the mini tractor and to purchase it on our behalf so that we do not have to pay VAT as it will be reclaimed by APC.

Cathy is also going to ask for a grant towards general costs.

f) Mini Tractor.

We now have £3,500 to buy a mini tractor. Initially it must have a mower attachment; other attachments can be added later. Paul and Tim are dealing with this.

5. Coopers Wood and Field.

a) Flower Meadow.

The plants which have been grown from seed by various people will be planted out in the next month – Cathy will organise a “mini event” for this.

b) Timber Management.

Dorset Countryside Management will be taking some of the wood from the recent thinning of Cooper's Wood to be stored at Elwell Stables for up to 2 years before being used for the Fuel Poverty project.

Roly Boughton is buying 2 trailer loads for £50 – he will be cutting it to size on site.

Cathy has prepared a Timber Certificate to be given to anyone who wants wood, so that they can show that they have permission to take it.

A local wood turner is taking some wood and in return will give us sawdust to put round the play equipment. (The previous supplier has gone to Australia!)

The brushwood is staying on site. Paul asked that it be moved off the areas which get mown.

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c) **Play Equipment.**

The RoSPA inspection of the play equipment will be done in May. The areas around the equipment needs weeding and new chippings / saw dust put down.

Taz Moores has volunteered to carry out the weekly and monthly play equipment checks.

6. **Allington Hill.**

Joe Middleton, Woodland Trust Manager, has walked around the hill and seems happy.

If anyone wants any of the woods from the trees which had to be felled on the hill they should contact Joe.

7. **Events for 2016.**

a) **Seedling planting** – May

b) **Aiden's Amble** to raise money for portable play equipment for children – 4 June, weather permitting, or 12 June if not

c) **Queen's 90th Birthday Picnic** – 12 June. This will be low key, with sports and refreshments only. We will use the mini marquee

d) **Bracken Rolling** – Kipp and Kate will be back late June – date to be confirmed.

A porta loo will be hired for Aiden's Amble and the picnic.

e) Cathy suggested that we try to do something for the following "National" days:

a. National Volunteers Weeks – 1 to 7 June, which coincides nicely with Aiden's Amble.

b. Insect Week – 20 to 26 June

c. Butterfly Count – June to August

8. **Any Other Business.**

a) **Summer Working Parties.**

Cathy suggested that we try to do one a week, as there is limited work possible during the summer. There will be seed collection and raking after mowing later in the summer.

b) **Hiring out the mini marquee.**

St Catherine's School has asked if they can use the marquee. Everyone agreed that this is fine, for a donation of £10 as long as we can advertise that it can be hired. It must be covered by their insurance.

Agreed that in future we will ask for £20 – who ever hires it must ensure it is covered by their insurance.

c) **Christmas Tree.**

Cathy has asked the Bridport Christmas Tree Festival organisers if we can make our own tree for this year. Tim is thinking about how it can be constructed.

d) **Nature Ramble at Elwell Farm.**

Jo George invites us to come on a nature ramble at Elwell Farm.

9. **Next Meeting.**

Thursday 2 June.

Signed:-.....Date:-...