

# Allington Hill Volunteers Committee Meeting

## Thursday 20 February 2014

**Present:** Cathy Harvey (Chair), Sal Robinson (Treasurer), Chris Toombs, Adam Sheering + 2 volunteers.

1. **Apologies.**

Irvin Beer, Anne-Marie Beer.

2. **Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 7 November 2013 & Matters Arising.**

The minutes were agreed and signed.  
The owl boxes will be put up in time for next winter.

3. **Correspondence.**

There has been some interest generated from the posters asking for volunteers. In particular, Adam Coleman, a qualified arborist, has offered to help.  
There is a planning application for development at Hibernia Cottage.

4. **Finances**

Sal reported that the cash + bank = £2,346.73, of which £1,179.63 is earmarked for more equipment for the play trail, which leaves £1,078.10 free for other things.

Sal is arranging an Internal Audit of the 2013 accounts, to be carried before the AGM.

5. **AGM and Constitution.**

The AGM is on Friday 14 March, 7:30 pm at St Swithun's Church Hall.  
The hall has been booked and will cost £15, including use of the kitchen.  
Tim Russell (WT manager) is unable to attend.  
Irvin Beer, Anne-Marie Beer and Claire Edwards are standing down from the Committee,  
Cathy has asked if anyone from the Bridport Co-housing group is interested in joining the committee – no reply as yet.  
Sal pointed out that additional committee members can be co-opted at any time during the year.  
Sal ran through the changes to the Constitution, which are mainly about the change of name of the group now that Allington Parish Council has taken over management of Coopers Wood and Field and the fact that the group has to answer to them for that area. The only other changes are reducing the minimum number of committee meetings per year from 4 to 3 and the minimum number of open meetings per year from 2 to 1 per year, excluding the AGM.  
The revisions have to be accepted at the AGM – Sal said that she would present this item.

6. **Coopers Wood / Field Update.**

- Cathy presented the 3 year plan for Coopers Wood / Field – everyone was happy with it.
- Cathy said that there is now a Volunteer Guide which lays out what is required for any work party and this must be followed by anyone who runs one. It has been accepted by both the Woodland Trust and Allington Parish Council and is required for insurance purposes.
- Cathy thanked Paul for all his chain-saw work in dealing with fallen trees etc after the storms.
- Poo bins will be purchased once the ground has dried out a bit (Allington PC is paying for these).
- There has been no progress on finding somewhere to store equipment.
- Bonfires are needed – these will only be done when the wind is in a suitable direction.
- It has been suggested that poppy seeds are scattered, possibly on bonfire sites, as a WWI tribute
- More wood chippings have been delivered and left outside the gate – we need to find out who is doing this is and maybe arrange for them to be delivered at a pre-arranged time and put inside the gate.
- A Woodland Trust tree pack has been applied for, for autumn planting.

7. **Allington Hill.**

Cathy reported on Tim Russell's (Woodland Trust Manager) informal walk round the hill with Paul Bowditch, Jon Harvey and Chris Toombs on 10 January 2014.

He was very impressed with the location, views, planting and with the work done by the Hillbillies including the signs.

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He appears to think that the group knows what we are doing and is happy for us to continue. He said to let him know if we need the Woodland Trust to do specific tasks. Chris told him that Cathy had agreed with Jon Burgess (previous WT Manager) that she would notify him in advance of any work we planned on doing in the Woodland Trust area and would have carried out a work assessment. This will obviously continue under the new manager.

Specifics:

1. Path on left hand side at top of Coopers Field.  
Tim said it was extremely muddy and could do with stone chippings being put down. This was queried as Jon Burgess had said everything had to be in keeping with the woodland. Tim said they had used stone chippings elsewhere and that we would need to take off the top three or four inches from the path and then lay chippings on top.
2. Embankment where tree had come down last year  
Tim agreed that this was in danger of slipping and the old wood needed coppicing. This would have to be done next autumn. He would need to contact Colfox as trees are on the boundary.
3. Steep set of steps near Park Road entrance  
Tim agreed that something needed to be done. He suggested redoing the steps so that where there was say one step to make it two. He thought it would be difficult to secure a handrail because of the steep slope.
4. New seat near top of these steps.  
Tim suggested we could cut some of the smaller branches to improve the view.
5. Root of Fallen Beech Tree.  
Tim said the contractors had done a good job. We suggested making a seat in situ out of the root. He thought that was a good idea and something the Hillbillies could do easily. He thought it might be difficult to move some of the larger logs to Coopers Field to make seats but it might be feasible with the smaller ones.

### 8. Kids Club.

Anne-Marie is unable to continue running this. It had been going since August but had never really got off the ground and there were issues when the weather was bad as there is nowhere indoors to run it. Cathy suggested that we continue to do things for kids but not on a set day. She suggested that, for instance, we ask the "The 'Munching Caterpillars' project group, run by Dorset-based wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation, to be involved. This project is to encourage children to take a closer look at moths, butterflies and their caterpillars.

Activities could be run during school holidays.

### 9. Events.

The trees in Coopers Wood were planted in 2004. The Coopers will be in the area in July /August and a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event will be organised for this time, to fit in with their dates. This will replace the "Summer" Festival.

Cathy suggested that it might be a good idea to combine the "Autumn Event" with the tree planting, possibly in November.

### 10. Any Other Business.

Sarah Smith, at Kingston Maurward College, wants to map Cooper Wood / Field and everything in it.

Allington Parish Council is looking in to providing a notice board, to be put near the main gate in Hospital Lane. Sal said that there should also be one at the Park Road side.

Poppy Seed and "green" snowdrops have been bought and are on their way to Chris.

The packets of Dorset Wildlife Trust wildflower seed will be amalgamated and probably sown on the bank next the water tank at the top of Allington Hill.

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