

# Allington Hill Volunteers Committee Meeting

## Thursday 28 January 2016

**Present:** Cathy Harvey (Chair), Sal Robinson (Treasurer), Chris Toombs, Tim Smith and Kevin Trott.

### 1. Apologies.

Paul Bowditch and Deanne Trott sent their apologies.

### 2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 17 September 2015.

The minutes were agreed.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

#### a) Year End Accounts.

Amount set aside = £305.00 (£55 Young Volunteer Award + £250 Picnic Bench)

Actual Balance £1352.49, less amount set aside gives £1047.49 available to spend. £31.49 is owed by Allington Parish Council.

Sal said that the 2015 accounts will be audited before the AGM.

#### b) General Accounts.

Amount set aside = £305.00 (£55 Young Volunteer Award + £250 Picnic Bench)

Actual Balance £1463.96, less amount set aside gives £1158.96 available to spend. £31.49 is owed by Allington Parish Council.

#### c) Calendars.

The calendars cost £357.17 and £435.00 was raised by selling them, a profit of £77.83.

Unsold calendars were donated to various organisations and people who have supported us throughout the year.

#### d) Picnic Table.

Delivery on the chosen picnic table was too high. Cathy is investigating the possibility of having one made locally.

#### e) Grants.

Cathy reported that Ian Rees (AONB) has made an application to the Postcode Local Trust for us, with support from DCC Countryside Management and Dorset Wildlife Trust. This is for £1,850 towards the hedging project on the eastern boundary of Coopers Field, the wild flower meadow and a mini tractor (see below).

Tim has been looking into the cost of purchasing a second hand replacement for Paul's mower – he is looking at mini tractors which can have different attachments – mower, digger bucket etc.

The question of where to store equipment is still unresolved. Cathy will request Allington Parish Council to ask Magna to provide / sponsor a place for equipment storage.

### 4. AGM.

7:30 Friday 11 March at St Swithun's Hall.

It was agreed to ask Paul Bowditch, Irvin Bear and Keith Alner if they would be willing to be "interviewed" about their memories of the hill, rather than having a speaker.

Chris indicated that she would be standing down from the Committee. It was agreed that we need at least 1 new person, preferably more.

### 5. Coopers Wood and Field.

A free hedging pack has been ordered from the Woodland Trust, to be used to re-establish the hedge on the eastern boundary. This contains 105 saplings - blackthorn; common oak; hazel; hawthorn; rowan; silver birch, and should be delivered mid March.

Further saplings will be required and Cathy has obtained a costing for this – this forms part of the Postcode Local Trust grant application.

The eastern boundary of the field needs to be cleared before planting can be done.

Seeds will be sown in the flower meadow at the end of February. Seeds will also be planted in posts and seed trays and children will be encouraged to do this (event at Washingpool Farm) and to take them home and watch them grow and then plant them out in the field.

# Allington Hill Volunteers Committee Meeting

## Thursday 28 January 2016

### 6. Allington Hill.

Very little work has been possible due to the wet and windy weather.

### 7. Events for 2016.

Everyone agreed that there will not be an Autumn Festival this year.

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

National Bird Watch – 30 & 31 January

Bird Box making – 14 February

National Volunteers Weeks – 1 to 7 June

Queen's Picnic Day – 12 June – similar to what we did for the 2012 Jubilee, including sports

Insect Week – 20 to 26 June

Butterfly Count – June to August

### 8. Any Other Business.

Tim has completed a First Aid course.

He suggested that if the organisers of that course wanted to do a hedge laying course we could offer the use of Coopers Field, but not the hedge along Hospital Lane!

It was suggested that we could construct some sort of bird watching "hide" in Coopers Wood, as long as it was not a "permanent" structure.

Fencing still needs to be put around the chipping pile.

The brambles by the 5-a-side pitch need cutting back.

We need to have a "mini" committee meeting before the AGM.

### 9. Next Meeting.

As and when.

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