

Allington Hill Volunteers Committee Meeting

Wednesday 8 January 2015

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

Also present: Roly Boughton and Tim Smith

1. Apologies.

Deanne Trott and Chris Toombs sent their apologies.

2. Welcome to Roly Boughton and Tim Smith.

Cathy welcomed Roly and Tim as prospective committee members and briefly explained the roles within the current committee.

3. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 24 October 2014.

The minutes were agreed and signed.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes, where not covered by an Agenda Item.

Cathy has not approached Sarah Smith or Hilary Smith regarding coming on to the committee. It was agreed that she ask Susan Smith but that Hilary is probably too busy.

5. Treasurer's Report

a) Finances. Sal reported that cash + bank = £2474.79, of which £500 is grant money earmarked for one / two WW1 Memorial benches, £2.76 is remaining grant money allocated to the flower meadow, £1250 is set aside grant money for disabled access improvements (included £250 of our own funds) and £55 is a donation towards an annual Young Volunteer award, leaving £667.03 available for general use. In addition Allington Parish Council currently "owes" £145.53 for various items. The calendars generated £151.14, the raffle at the Christmas "Do" on 27 December raised £55 and £59.20 was given in donations at the Christmas Tree Festival.

b) Memorial Bench. Sal gave brief update re the memorial bench – Stan is having difficulties sourcing the oak. Roly said that he might be able to help and will ask around.

c) Disabled Access Improvements / Picnic Table. Sal said that she will contact the AONB, National Trust and Dorset Wildlife Trust for advice about installing pavers for the improved disabled access. She pointed out that the West Dorset Car Boot grant must be spend by end of July 2015 (for the memorial bench) and the Bridport Town Council grant for the disabled access project must be spent by end of October 2015 She said that there might be some lee-way if the issue was procuring the right materials for the bench.

Sal said that Galaxy Milk Chocolate Fund 2014 is open until 23 February 2015 – 4 awards of £300 per week are available for 4 community groups. **AGREED** to apply to it for funds for the disabled access project. It was also **AGREED** that we apply to the West Bar Car Boot fund for a grant towards the disabled access project.

Paul said that Cllr Ros Kayes is also offering grants – Sal to investigate.

Cathy said that one of the Dorset breweries also has grant funds – she will investigate and give the details to Sal.

It was agreed to approach Allington Parish Council for this project and to see if we can one of Waitrose's charities again.

Roly suggested that we approach the Dorset County Council Disability Officer for advice.

6. Events for 2015.

a) AGM. AGREED that this will be on Friday 6 March at St Swithuns Hall. Cathy will do an illustrated talk. There will be refreshments and a raffle – Sal to buy some bottles of wine for prizes and we will ask people to donate suitable prizes.

b) Summer Festival. AGREED that this will be on Sunday 21 June (Mid-Summer Day) and will be the Summer Solstice Tea Party. To be organised as last year – hot and cold drinks, cakes and biscuits with people bringing their own lunch etc. No entertainment, just sports for the kids.

c) Autumn Festival. AGREED that this will be a "Mad Hatter's Tea Party" on the same day as the main Bridport Hat Festival events i.e. Saturday 5 September – mid afternoon and into the evening, with the usual torchlight procession and bonfire. There will be entertainment and Sal pointed out that we need to get a Temporary Entertainment Notice – she will deal with this.

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7. Flower Meadow Project.

No update as Chris was not at the meeting.

8. AONB Update.

The Forestry Commission have carried out the survey of Coopers Wood but we do not have the report yet. A "loose" Management Plan will be drawn up which will be discussed with us and our input regarding Coopers Wood will be used to produce the final Plan.

Roly volunteered to take over the monitoring and reporting of volunteer work hours put in in Coopers Wood and Field – this is required as a condition of the grant.

9. Winter Working Parties and Projects.

Roly will soon have a license to use a chain saw.

AGREED that work parties will take place every Sunday morning, weather permitting, with additional sessions as and when.

The stone wall at the top of the field (discovered last year and other parts of it still existing across the hill) needs repairing – Roly will find out if Kingston Maurward College would be interested in this as a project for their students.

Hedge along Hospital Lane – **AGREED** to "infill" the gaps with dead wood and possibly with some saplings and to leave laying it for a couple of years when there has been more growth.

The Dorset Wildlife Trust has offered to help when we do want to do hedge laying – they have a group of volunteers who do this and would teach our volunteers.

Chris and Pat want to do some work to renovate the willow arbour – Cathy suggested half term week as we might get some children along to help.

The current project is at the western end of Coopers Field, to clear scrub between the "kissing gate" and "The Drive".

10. Promotional Advertising.

a) Update business cards / logos etc. Tim showed examples of compliments slips and letter heads which he has designed. **AGREED** that he will work with Roly to develop this further, including business cards.

b) Newsletter Distribution. **AGREED** that black and white copies should be put in the tourist Information Office and the Library and that if people want a hard copy they can have a B/W one free but if they want it in colour they will be charged a £6 subscription to cover the cost of printing and postage.

c) Poster Boards at Park Road side of hill. **AGREED** that we either

- i. Put an old Allington Parish Council board in Jane Dibden's garden, by the part – provided that there is such an board and that she agrees

OR

- ii. Replace the old boards at the 2 entrance to the actual hill with new A4 "click" boards, the same as those on the main gate in Hospital Lane.

d) Media Updates. **AGREED** that Cathy asks Pat North if she will submit weekly updates for publication in the Bridport News.

11. Equipment Storage. This will be discussed by Allington Parish Council at the meeting on 13 January 2015.

12. Any Other Business.

The rope swing has again been vandalised – Paul has a replacement ready and waiting which will be put up ASAP.

Sarah Smith has almost finished the map – the next step is to get it printed and mounted.

Cathy reported that, as far as she knows, the old Allington Hill Facebook page has now been closed.

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