

Allington Hill Volunteers Committee Meeting

Thursday 7 November 2013

Present: Cathy Harvey (Chair), Sal Robinson (Treasurer), Chris Toombs, Claire Edwards and Adam Shearing.

1. Apologies.

Irvin Beer, Kevin Trott and Paul Bowditch.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 1 August 2013.

The minutes were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising which were not covered by agenda items.

3. Correspondence.

- Sally Glass (Woodland Trust) has e-mailed Cathy as follows:-
“I am glad the festival was a success and thanks for the young volunteer's details. Tim Russell our new Site Manager will now take this forward. Paul B may have mentioned we met him very briefly while Tim and I were on a flying visit round Dorset sites. Somehow talking to Paul about the festival it seemed entirely right that Coopers Field is now managed by the community, I know how it came about was upsetting for all concerned and will not be forgotten easily however I am sure Tim will be in touch soon and that you will be able to develop an very good working relationship.
Best wishes and good luck with Coopers Field.”
- Dorset Life magazine has confirmed that there will be a short article on the group in the January issue. They have asked for photos – agreed to me in Coopers Field at 2:00 pm on Sat 10 November for an informal photo shoot with Jon Harvey behind the lens.
- Agreed that we should accept the free owl boxes being offered and to contact Dorset Wildlife Trust regarding where best to site them.
- Bridport Community Orchard group are asking the organisers of the Big Green Apple
- Day event (held at Thorners School, Litton Cheney) to change the name as it has nothing to do with apples, unlike the event held by the Community Orchard. *[The Big Green Apple Day organisers have complained about the Apple Day held by the BCO group!]*

4. Finances

Sal reported that the cash + bank = £2,325.76, of which £1,179.63 is earmarked for more equipment for the play trail, which leaves £1,146.13 free for other things.

Sal said that the Autumn Festival made a profit of £272.87, with expenses of £407.32 (including the portalo for which no invoice has yet been received) and takings of £680.19. Some items which were bought have not been included in expenses because they will be used over and over again e.g. tarpaulins.

The Summer Festival made a profit of £132.75, the main difference being that no food was sold at that event.

5. Feed-back from the Autumn Festival.

- That the fire be lit at 6:00 so that it is well alight for 7:00
- That the lantern procession leaves when the fire is lit – some families with young children may want to leave after that
- The music was well received
- Overall there was a lot of positive feedback – or maybe we don't get told the “bad”!
- BUT the raffle prizes were not very good – probably why the raffle only to £63.00
- AND maybe the Bouncy Castle has “had its day” for the time being (it only took £64.00) – is there an alternative?

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6. **Coopers Field / Wood and Allington Parish Council.**

The lease between the Woodland Trust and Allington Parish Council came in to effect on 4 October 2013.

Allington PC has money which they wish to spend on "stuff" for Coopers Wood / Field – suggestions so far are:-

- Vandal proof notice board for the main gate
- New sign for the main gate to replace the Woodland Trust one, now that Allington PC have the lease on Coopers Wood / Field
- Wood chipper (provided that somewhere can be found to store it)
- Dog poo bins

7. **Revised Constitution.**

The Allington Hill Volunteer Group Constitution needs changing now that Allington PC has the lease on Coopers Wood / Field.

AGREED that the changes be ratified at the AGM in March 2014.

8. **New Woodland Trust Manager for Allington Hill.**

The new manager is Tim Russell. He has agreed to meet with volunteers on the hill – date to be arranged.

9. **Christmas Tree at the Bridport Christmas Tree Festival in the United Reform Church.**

The tree has to be decorated on the evening of Monday 2 December. Cathy is away the previous week so all needs to be ready ASAP.

AGREED that the theme be "All Creatures Great and Small".

AGREED to meet at Cathy's house on Thursday 14 December to start making decorations. The next Kid's Club meeting is this coming Sunday and will make decorations for the tree.

10. **Christmas Eve.**

It was **AGREED** that a "Christmas Tree" be done on the side of Cooper Field, and that everyone be invited to come along and have mulled wine and mince pies.

There will be a couple of informal sessions to make "decorations" for the tree.

11. **Kids Club progress.**

This seems to be going well, with 6 – 8 children attending each month.

12. **Working Parties.**

These need to be organised on a more regular basis. There are a lot of jobs which need doing in Coopers Field.

Cathy to organise and to text people and put the dates on the Facebook page as an Event.

Cathy suggested a change in emphasis with work being done by smaller groups, which gives more flexibility. Cathy will ask if anyone is available during the week.

At the moment Cathy tends to lead the work parties but there is no reason why other people can't lead them as well – to be investigated further.

13. **Any Other Business.**

Next year is the 10th Anniversary of the planting of Coopers Wood. Members of the Cooper family will be in the area at the end of April.

AGREED that an event to celebrate this anniversary be held on Sunday 27 April 2014.

It was suggested that something be done, e.g. a pond, in recognition of this

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