

Allington Hill Volunteers Committee Meeting

Wednesday 17 September 2015

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

1. Apologies.

Deanne Trott, Roly Boughton and Tim Smith sent their apologies.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 15 May 2015.

The minutes were agreed.

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

None.

4. Treasurer's Report

a) Hat Festival Bash

<u>Income</u>		<u>Costs</u>	
Tea Tent	£156.30	Help with Food Stall	£40.00
Tombola	£115.50	Bouncy Castle	£49.00
Glow Sticks	£20.40	Food and General supplies	224.39
Donations	£37.68	Activities	£31.78
Activites	£21.00	Glow Sticks	£15.00
Bouncy Castle	£114.00	Insurance	£24.95
Food	£307.50	Tombola prizes	£10.60
Bought back	£23.30	Generator + Gaz	£129.83
Bought back	£12.80	PA man	£100.00
Horseshoe game	£3.50	Loo	£72.00 Provisional
Hire of stall x 2	£40.00		
TOTAL	£851.98	TOTAL	£697.55

Provisional profit £154.43

Agreed by all to give £50 to each of the Hat Festival's nominated charities.

a) General Accounts. DOES NOT YET INCLUDE THE HAT FESTIVAL MONEY.

Amount set aside = £305.00 (£55 Young Volunteer Award + £250 Picnic Bench)
Actual Balance £2161.65, less amount set aside gives £1856.68 available to spend.

b) Bridport Area Car Boot Fund 2015 - Invitation to Presentation Tea from West Dorset District Council.

Sal, Paul and possibly Tim will go to the Salt House on Friday 16th October from 3pm-4.30pm for the presentation tea..

c) Disabled Access Improvements / Picnic Table.

d) The access improvements are complete (TMH Fencing) and a cheque for £1250 (cost net of VAT) was given to Allington Parish Council at their meeting on 8 September 2015. APC are ordering the picnic table – we have a Bridport Car Boot Fund grant of £250, the other £250 ish will come from funds.

e) Wild Flower Meadow Grass Cutting.

APC is paying Ryan for 2 cuts (1 already done, the other to be done in October). We have £160+ credit with Emorgate Seeds from the "sale" of yellow rattle seed. We now need to decide what to spend it on – seeds? "natural" daffodil bulbs?

5. Hat Festival Event.

This was very successful and the number of FB page members is now 130, up from 100, and there are more people looking at posts on the page. New people attended the event and others who we had not seen for a while. It was positive PR for the Group and good community involvement. The PA man was great and we will definitely use him again (he charged £100 instead of £500!).

If we do another similar event we will get someone in to do the food – may be a hog roast. The food is the time consuming part of the event and there is always the issue that the food will have been bought and then the event has to be cancelled due to bad weather.

Cathy praised and thanked Defoe Smith and Tim Smith for all their work with the bands, sourcing the PA, etc. and for keeping Cathy "in the loop".

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6. Correspondence.

Dorset Community Action has asked if the LiveWell Dorset project could get involved with our work. Cathy to invite them to meet with us.

7. Woodland Trust.

Joe (Woodland Trust Manager) is meeting with us on 22 September to discuss work to be done on the hill by winter working parties. There won't be any big projects, just general maintenance.

8. Coopers Wood & Field.

Agreed that only small projects and maintenance will be done this winter. Ian Rees (AONB) and Roly are working on the management plan for Coopers Wood. The AONB is buying £600 worth for tools for the group.

9. Autumn / Winter Projects / Activities.

Cathy is organising a sponsored walk and a guided walk for a donation for Children in Need on 11 October. **Agreed** that we will have the Remembrance poppy in the field up by the new Remembrance bench. We will arrange for the bench to be dedicated, hopefully on 11 November. Maybe Tim can organise this and talk to Sandra Brown, Royal British Legion.

Agreed that we will apply to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival again, with a theme of "Food for Free".

10. Flower Meadow Project.

We have some donated plants to plant out – this can't be done until the ground is soft enough.

Yellow Rattle and wild flower seed will be sown in the the "cheese" shape bit and further wild flower seed in the 2 established areas.

We need to encourage people to grow seeds to be planted out in the spring – perhaps the Beavers could take part in this?

John will scythe the area which Ryan did not cut and also round the trees.

11. Plans / Projects for 2016.

No major projects are planned.

There will be further bracken bashing in June (Kate and Kipp have been booked by the Woodland Trust).

We hope to have a Summer Picnic with sports.

We will buy a bat detector so we can find out what bats we have got and have evening "bat walks".

We will also carry out a Wild Life Survey which will be of community benefit and back up future funding applications.

Cathy suggested that we join the Dorset Greenwood Tree Project.

Washingpool Farm has said we can use the Melplash classroom for children's events.

Tim is working on a Nature Trail – if complete in time this could be used as a focus for the Children in Need event (see above).

Defoe Smith wants to organise a children's event – a Pirate's Treasure Chest Trail.

Agreed that a full scale Autumn event should be held every two years because of the significant effort involved, though there can be a bonfire every year.

12. Any Other Business.

The grass on the top of the hill has been cut – all of it!

Cathy and Chris suggested that some of the fencing (from APC managed play areas) could be used for the back board for the wood chipping area.

Dorset Rights of Way (Adam Butcher) to be asked if they can clear the public footpath from Park Road again as it is getting overgrown.

Sal reported that the old Allington Hill Facebook page was referenced in the Hat Festival information and that the page is still there – Cathy will follow this up as she had been told that it had been removed.

13. Next Meeting.

Thursday 28 January 2016.

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