

Minutes of the meeting 14/05/2015

Attended by: Cathy Harvey, Chris Toombs, Roly Boughton and Kevin Trott.

Apologies: Paul Bowditch, Tim Smith, and Sal Robinson.

Minutes of the last Meeting Jan 2015, matters arising.

No action had been taken on better communication with the media. This is due to members other commitments. We agreed to review this again at the next meeting.

Treasurer's report: Sal sent a report to say that the finances had changed little since the last meeting. She has applied for two grants. One grant from Palmers Brewery for £750 and the second, West Bay Car Boot Fund for £500. Chris had a total of approx. £100 in receipts to be paid and Cathy has approx £70.

We have received a cheque for £1000 from Allington Parish Council for general running costs of the group. It has also been agreed that we have a budget of £480 towards grass maintenance for Cooper's Field.

Correspondence:

No correspondence has been received from the Woodland Trust to inform us that there is a new manager for the site. It was agreed that we would wait until they contacted us, rather than pursuing this.

Woodland Trust withdrew the plan to instate a new five year plan after we pointed out that it was misleading as they had also incorporated Cooper's Wood and Field.

Woodland Trust via Allington Parish Council has applied for a change of lease to incorporate a permissive right of way across the field to the entrance of the Drive. We as a group and Allington Parish Council have strongly objected to this. We have not received any further correspondence from them.

We have been invited to take part in an event at the Town Hall on Wednesday June 3rd as part of National Volunteering Week. There has been a very low acceptance rate and although Paul and myself have offered to man the stall but the event may be cancelled.

Outstanding Projects:

Stan hopes to install the bench this weekend. We hope to have a photo opportunity later next week with Phil Lathey, with a dedication ceremony later.

Grass pavers. Cathy is going to chase Forest and Tree care for the info on pavers. Roly is going to get several other quotes.

Woodland Trust: (the hill) Roly noted that a very unsafe rope swing had been put in place and vegetation around it has been damaged. It was agreed for safety the swing would be removed.

Cooper's Wood and Field: Roly is hoping to produce a draft copy of a management plan by the end of the summer. We are hoping that a five-year plan for the hill will be put in place by the Woodland Trust by the end of the year. We would if possible like the two plans to work side by side.

As noted above we have agreed to accept the offer of a £480 budget to manage the grass in the field area.

At the moment no work needs to be done on the flower meadow and the area damaged by badgers is healing well. Advice has been taken about the possibility of transplanting a couple of the orchids to another area in the field to maximize survival rate from further damage.

Roly has offered to involve local people in nature surveys on the hill/field and forage treks etc. We were very enthused by these ideas as well as a moth event and bat walk. We discussed as an organized event risk assessment and informing W.T and A.P.C would ensure we are covered by insurance. We would look into if we would be able to ask for a donation for such events, but aware the individual leading the group may need their own insurance.

The new main gate has been ordered and A.P.C have contracted someone to fit it. A.P.C are also asking the planning department for an on site visit re storage.

Future Volunteering events: It was agreed that we would put together a detailed plan of work for next winter and information about volunteering events. It was also agreed that the work done during the summer is too weather orientated to have fixed volunteer events.

Flower Meadow management: Chris reported that all we can do at the moment is sit back and watch. Discussed the cutting of the meadow. If possible delay first cut until after August 11th because of butterfly surveys and munching caterpillar event. Then bailed ready for hat festiaval!!!??

Wildlife surveys: Roly asked if the Dormouse sighting had been recorded, which it had not. He was going to ensure that this happens. He also hopes at sometime to gain the qualification needed to handle Dormice and survey them.

Other survey's include the annual butterfly count, munching caterpillars event (August 11th) Moth event Bat Walk (August 17th), and forage event. These events may be held more than once during the year.

Festivals: Summer festival Sunday June 21st, we agreed the same formula as last year. Children's sports day, self-service refreshments, tombola, and something for the fathers, as it is father's day. We also agreed the bouncy castle, and toilet. Cathy to chase Jo for the tea urn and Andrew for bouncy castle.

Mad Hatters Tea Party. Saturday September 6th. We agreed that 5pm to 9pm was long enough for the volunteers. We have agreed that we will make every effort to do our own refreshments as before with B.B.Q, but will seek outside

help, such as a youth group (16-21 age) that would volunteer their time for a small donation towards their own funds.

We would invite other stallholders to attend and charge a fee to help cover expenses. Dorset Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, etc, etc.

We have 3 bands so far and poss two more via Defoe. We are going to try and source more entertainment; Pop club and Sea shanty group was suggested. Sal to look into entertainment license.

Paul will be in charge of sourcing wood for the bonfire, and providing marquees, generators.

Kevin to source another marque.

Roly to design promotional material, posters, handbills etc.

The group to take part in Bridport Carnival to promote the festival.

Tombola, instead of a draw.

Children's work shops such as the lanterns and seed bombs to be repeated.

Cathy to approach Washingpool farm re trailer for performers and bails if needed.

Remembrance weekend:

It was agreed that we would invite such organisations as the British legion to a dedication service for the WW1 bench and ask them to plant a tree (or three) saplings behind the bench. We would also put up the poppy and this year to include crosses for those that lost their lives in WW2. We would approach the Sea scouts to ask them to make the crosses.

Advertising/ promotion/ news articles: It was agreed that we would focus all promotion advertising etc around the Mad Hatter Tea Party, for the maximum impact.

We agreed to ask Tim if he could slightly change the logo as we still have not been able to approach the W.T (as no manager) about the use of their logo on the shield. Acorns were suggested. This is only so we could get on and produce business cards etc and no criticism on the original design.

A.O.B

Thankfully none!

Meeting closed 9.45pm

