

Allington Hill Volunteers Committee Meeting

Thursday 1 August 2013

Present: Cathy Harvey (Chair), Sal Robinson (Treasurer), Anne-Marie Beer (Secretary / Coordinator), Chris Toombs, Paul Bowditch, Adam Shearing and Deanne Trott.

1. Apologies.

Irvin Beer, Kevin Trott and Claire Edwards.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 23 May 2013.

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

3. Correspondence.

Claire Edwards has contacted Cathy saying that she does not feel that she had been doing enough to help to justify being on the committee. Agreed that Cathy asks her to stay on the committee as she is an important link with the local community.

We have been asked if we want to attend the Big Apple Day at Litton Cheney on Sunday 13 October, to promote the group and our work.

We have been invited to provide publicity material for the BLAP stand at the Melplash Show on 22 August.

The Woodland Trust has told Cathy that another seat has been donated for the hill and they ask for suggestions for a site for it. It was agreed to suggest that it be put at the top of the steep steps.

4. Finances

Sal reported that the cash + bank = £2,239.21, of which £1,179.63 is earmarked for more equipment for the play trail, which leaves £1,050.58 free for other things.

Sal said that the Summer Festival made a profit of £132.75, with expenses of £83.65 (including the portaloos) takings of £216.40. Some items which were bought have not been included in expenses because either they were not used and will be carried forward to the Autumn Festival or they will be used over and over again e.g. hula hoops, 3-legged race straps.

5. Update on lease for Cooper's Wood / Field.

Allington Parish Council still has 2 outstanding issues with the lease which are, hopefully, being addressed by the Woodland Trust. The next Allington Parish Council meeting is on 13 August.

6. Wild Flower Meadow.

Approx 500 gm of Yellow Rattle seed has been collected so there is plenty for the new area of meadow.

Agreed that Chris buys meadow flower seeds, at a cost of approx £100.

Some suitable plants have been grown on and will be planted once the existing wild flower area has been cut.

The new wild flower area will be prepared as before –cut, rake, then sow yellow rattle.

The existing wild flower area will be scythed and raked.

7. Play Equipment.

Sal pointed out that any new equipment must be to RoSPA safety standards. This is particularly important if the equipment is made locally and not sourced from a specialist supplier.

A local man, who has made other play ground equipment, is happy to copy the see-saw illustrated on www.jcgardens.com – see-saws.

Another suggestion is a low scramble net.

Any equipment will have to be approved by Allington Parish Council before it is purchased.

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Weekly checks of the equipment – it was agreed that this be shared with each person taking a month each.

Sal reminded everyone that the check sheets must be kept, together with details of any repairs etc undertaken. This is for insurance purposes.

8. Children's Sunday Club.

It was agreed that this should be monthly, on the 2nd Sunday of the month and that each session should last approx 1 hour.

Care must be taken re "child protection" and parents will be welcome to attend.

Cathy will see if the Community Room can be rented in case of bad weather and to provide a base.

The 1st session will be held at 2 pm on 11 August and will be a butterfly hunt.

The money raised by Dave Rickard (£250) when he was Mayor (2012-13) and donated to the group will be used to fund the Sunday Club, as he has a particular interest in activities for children.

9. Autumn Festival Plans.

Due to uncertainty as to when the lease for Coopers Wood / Field will be signed it was agreed to shift the date by 2 weeks to Saturday 12 October.

Assuming that the lease has been signed by then it will be necessary to get permission from Allington Parish Council otherwise it will be the Woodland Trust.

Agreed to ask the Scouts if we can borrow their tent and gaz tea urn for a donation of £20.

Irwin will source the BBQ.

Adam will ask if we can have the Bouncy Castle again.

Kathy will investigate musical entertainment.

She also suggested that we have a story teller again – she has found one who will hopefully be better than the one 2 years ago!

The face painter will be invited to attend again, on the same terms as for the Summer Festival – she keeps the 1st £25 with the rest coming to us.

Agreed that the theme will be "Witches and Wizards".

Other sales / activities will include Tombola, Raffle, Bring & Buy and Wild Seed Bombing.

Outside groups will be invited to have a stall - charity groups free, local self-employed £10. Sal is investigating agreement documents for insurance purposes.

10. Any Other Business.

Agreed that we again have a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival, with the theme "All Creatures Great and Small" or "Seeds".

Agreed to hire a digger and trailer for £50 to move all the wood chippings which have been "donated" by persons unknown and left outside the main gate. We are still trying to find out who it is so that next time we can get the chippings put inside the gate!