

Meeting of Friends of Landport Bottom

Monday 13th August 2018

St Mary's Church Hall, Highdown Road, 7.30pm

Present: Stephen Watson, Keith Dance, Gill Chambers, Susan Murray, Roger Murray, Rob Elvery, Stephen Catlin, Thyone Outram, David Marsh, Brian Courage, Kym Murden, Nina Murden, Vicki Trenhaile

Apologies for absence: Jenny Keen, Jenny Lindop, Kim Dawson, Sarah Flynn

Action points from previous meeting

GDPR – Stephen has got people to confirm they want to be on the mailing list. Blind copy should be used on emails.

Hawthorn in the tumuli field along the bridleway has been partially cut back and the rest will be cut back later in the year.

Rangers report – Thyone Outram

Grazing – the sheep are going to be moved soon, by the end of the month. At the moment there are 50 – 100 sheep but this will be increased on the move. Parts of the field will be cut and collected. Ragwort is to be pulled and vegetation around the gates and fence posts cleared.

The new hedge has suffered in the hot weather and some of the trees have died although the field maple seems to have come through well.

Wildflowers – thick growth has had the effect of suppressing many wild flowers: the pyramidal orchid count was down substantially 450 this years as opposed to 4000 last year. Kidney vetch has done well.

The Higher Stewardship survey in the pond field found good quality plants. Wakehurst have harvested seed from self heal and red clover and black knapweed will be harvested on 22nd August (people are welcome to help with this).

Devolution has taken place and Landport Bottom now belongs entirely to Lewes Town Council although the District Council will still be involved in the management until the end of the Higher Stewardship agreement in 2021.

James Turner is the Neighbourhood Advisor and can be contacted at upton@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

Thyone should be contacted regarding matters to do with the sheep, digging up of orchids, vegetation.

A clarification of responsibilities and contact points is needed.

AOB

There has not been progress on moving a dog bin from Nevill Recreation ground to Landport Bottom. Nevill Residents Association needs to agree to and establish which of the two bins should be moved.

Nevill Juvenile Bonfire Society will be holding its march and bonfire on Saturday 20th October.

There are two volunteer days taking place on Sunday 23rd September (bridleway in Tumuli field) and Wednesday 26th September (pondwork)

Bonfire clear up was discussed and helping was considered a good idea although it was not clear at which point it would be most useful. Thyone is happy to talk to the bonfire society.

There were more larks this summer and they appear to have stayed longer and have moved to more south areas. They have been seen in all three fields.

Chris Smith's campaign to register all the footpaths in the Landport bottom area was discussed. Although there is no immediate threat to them Chris Smith feels that it would be worthwhile to register them and is circulating a questionnaire regarding usage to people in the area.

It was suggested that it might be a good idea to reduce the number of meetings from four a year to three or possibly two. This will be discussed further after the next Landport Management Committee meetings

The next meeting will be Monday 12th November 2018.