

**Meeting of Friends of Landport Bottom**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – 7.30 pm**  
**St. Mary's Church Hall, Highdown Road, Lewes.**

**Present:** Councillor Susan Murray; Councillor Roger Murray;  
Stephen Watson; Thyone Outram; Sarah Flynn;  
Imogen Makepeace; Gaynor Hartnell; Jenny Keen.

**Apologies:** Vicki Trenhaile; Christine Cohen Park; Rob Elvery;  
Councillor Ruth O'Keeffe, Brian & Jacqueline Bodle;  
Brian Courage.

**Action points from previous meeting:**

Additional dog waste bin: this has now been re-sited on the motor road close to the gates leading into the Tumuli and Small fields.

Frequency of meetings: following the next Landport Bottom Management Committee meeting, the matter will be discussed again. The September meeting was cancelled and a new date has yet to be set. It was noted that there had been a good turnout at the last Friends meeting in August. Susan felt that for now the meetings should be reduced to every 4 months, i.e. March, July, November. If required an emergency meeting could still be called. Stephen said that he would need to check the availability of the room for these dates.

**Ranger's report and discussion:**

Sheep: all the sheep have been removed from Landport Bottom. The new shepherd was concerned about the welfare of the sheep with regard to the bonfire celebrations. Thyone will be meeting the shepherd next week to discuss when the sheep will be returning; they will graze the Tumuli and Main fields throughout the winter.

Volunteers: volunteers have been cutting back vegetation in the Tumuli field, and around the pond in the Main field.

Bonfire celebrations: the ground is currently very dry therefore the bonfire has scorched the ground in larger areas, and the damage is worse than usual. Imogen had taken pictures of the fire damage. Whilst it was felt that the grass would soon recover, Thyone said that the damage was not good for

chalk grassland plants. Imogen commented that the Southover bonfire in Convent Field was built on a raised structure of scaffold poles, thereby protecting the ground. She will make enquiries regarding the construction of the bonfire. Thyone said that next year she will make sure that the bonfire structure is designed and built as in previous years. Stephen asked whether it would be helpful to pre-dampen the ground around the main tableaux, as this is a particular area where the ground becomes scorched. Imogen will speak to Jason Winter of the Borough Bonfire Society regarding the pyrotechnic people, to see whether the technique used this year was different to previous years. Thyone said there was still a skip and fencing on the bonfire site. She will carry out further inspection of the site before refunding the society's deposit.

### **Spreading of woodchips:**

Gaynor Hartnell and volunteers have been spreading woodchips on the path from Hawkenbury Way to Landport Bottom, Gate 18. In the winter the path gets very muddy and the chips help to make the surface firmer underfoot. However, resident/ racehorse owner Mr Hoad, says that the chips are bad for horses hooves, and he has requested that they not be spread on the path at the side of the reservoir, in order to prevent damage to the horses feet. The complaint is that the chips have washed down and spread onto Mr Hoad's land. Gaynor Hartnell has told him that she will not do this any more. Stephen confirmed that the path is access land and is not a right of way footpath. Imogen will follow up with Southern Water to see who owns the land.

### **Monday Footpath Group:**

On behalf of the Monday Footpath Group, Christine Cohen Park had written an email to Stephen. She was reporting that the stile, situated at the far end of the field above the chalk pits was rotten. In order that the Monday Group can repair or replace the stile, they will need to gain access to the site. This would mean driving a car through a normally locked gate off the private road, to the Old Stables. Thyone will respond directly to Christine by email.

### **Issues/concerns:**

Sarah asked whether there were ash trees on Landport Bottom, and if so were any affected by die-back. Thyone confirmed that there were ash trees and that some were suffering from die-back. This is a wind borne disease, and ash trees will only be taken down as they die; any replanting is yet to be decided. The town council is currently surveying the ash trees on the road but not those on Landport Bottom.

**Wildlife updates:**

Imogen commented that there were still a lot of butterflies about, especially red admirals. Thyone said there were also a lot of ladybirds.

**Celebrations:**

No contributions.

**Protection:**

No contributions.

**Date of next meeting:**

t.b.a.

*The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.*