



**Friends of Rising Sun Country Park**  
**Meeting: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** Eric Styan (Treasurer), Janet Weatherburn, Jan Casson, Keith Taylor, Vivien Fenn-Webber, Claire Partleton (Chair), Dennis Nelson, Chris Tallack (NTC), Stephen Gibbinson (NTC)

**Apologies:** Val Watson, Pat Nelson, Graeme Sample (NTC), Pixie Phelan (NTC),

**Matters arising from meeting 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**GDPR Policy**

CP circulated draft policy before meeting for consideration. ES raised one or two points and CP to amend and bring to next meeting for formal approval. **Action CP**

**Appointment of Group Secretary**

KT has put his name forward for this vacant post. Proposed: VFW, Seconded: JC. KT was appointed unanimously.

**Social Media**

CP reported that the link between the NT Facebook page and the Friends has been resolved. Also we have linked our FB to Instagram. QR codes have been posted on the Friends Noticeboard and will be included on the Newsletter.

**Flight Diverters**

These have finally been installed by Northern Power Grid, a great result although taken over 12 months!

**Willow Structures for the Wildlife Garden**

New meeting date needs to be agreed with Justine. CP to circulate possible dates.  
**Action CP**

**Interpretation boards & Signage**

ES reported that order prepared for NTC for the replacement sign on the Waggonway. Concerns re 'stretching' resolved. Victory Signs had been removed from NT Approved Suppliers list so PP sorting and place order as soon as possible. ES returned the original artwork to VFW to return to Mark Rasen. **Action PP**

Centre grounds signage to be looked at in the New Year with Elaine Elliot from NT.  
**Action PP**

## **Bird and Bat Boxes**

CP and ES have recorded all the bird/bat boxes in the Quarry and Centre Grounds using What3Words location system as a trial. Results to be typed up and decision taking on using around wider Park. **Action CP/ES**

## **Cherry Trees**

ES contacted VW and Halls of Heddon to determine which trees are available. Halls have two suitable standards costing around £69. ES proposes Prunus Pink Perfection. VFW confirmed payment for one tree and would like a plaque placed with it. NT propose the trees be planted where the old apple trees were near the car park. ES and KT agreed to prepare the ground on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Action ES/KT**

## **Beeline Project (brought forward)**

ES asked whether the Northumberland Wildlife Trust had planted all the bulbs as part of the Beeline Project or whether they still needed volunteers to help. PP had heard from the NWT but not clear on current position. ES offered to contact NWT directly to see if and when they might need help. PP to contact NWT and arrange approval for ES to communicate directly. **Action PP/ES**

## **Nature Walks/Talks**

CP has heard nothing from NHSN. CP has contacted Oscar from Northumberland Park regarding a bird/nature walk. Cost to Friends would be £30. Need to decide do we charge, what limit on numbers, when, how book. CP to contact Oscar. **Action CP**

CP also suggested a Bat Walk; need to agree when and details. ES mentioned the National Trust at Seaton Delaval have contact with someone to check the Hall for bats and may do walks. ES to contact. **Action ES**. VFW offered to do a talk about horses to include a visit to the Stables and possibly organise a farrier. All in favour and need again to decide when and how.

RSPB Garden Watch is on 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Jan but nothing planned.

## **Allotment/Garden Group**

CP mentioned a seed swap event that was been organised in Whitley Bay by Seed Social (new Charitable Incorporated Organisation based in North Tyneside). CP has arranged a meeting at the RS 20 Jan at 11am to find out more information. CP invited group. CP to attend.

## **Litterpicking**

Next Friends event 30 Jan at 10:30am. ES to advertise on Community FB page. **Action ES**. Great British Spring Clean event 17 March to 2 April to be discussed next meeting.

## **City Nature Challenge**

This event is 28 April to 1 May. Need to agree Friends activities.

## **Remembering the Past**

CP has been handed historic documents for the Park and wonders how the group should use them. ES mentioned that a friend may have recorded the memories of one of the miners from the RS Pit. ES to contact. **Action ES.** All very interested in making more of the Park history but need to decide what and how.

## **Promoting the Group**

SG mentioned that the NT quarterly magazine is due out soon so Friends could advertise in it. Last date 28 Jan. CP to consider. **Action CP**

## **Environmental/Heritage Days**

It is 20 years since the Centre opened, are any activities planned?

## **NT Events 2023**

SG reported that NT are meeting in Jan to discuss events across all the Parks for 2023 and will feedback outcome at next meeting.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Currently £42.33 petty cash and £2660.54 in Bank.

ES reported that the Xmas Fayre event had been successful and £108.14 was taken on the day. Thanks to all involved, it was an excellent day.

Sum Up machine has been purchased but need to supply information in accordance with regulations associated with money laundering. ES and CP to complete paperwork. **Action CP/ES**

## **AOB**

### **Friends Calendar**

ES asked whether we should reduce the cost of the Friends Calendar. All agreed that a 50% reduction be applied reducing the cost to £2.50. ES to inform the Bakery and the café. Agreed also to offer staff a free copy. **Action ES.** ES asked whether we have a calendar in 2024. All agreed we should but our source of photographs has changed following the separation of the FB groups. ES mentioned that we will need final calendar for August to allow production. Need to discuss next meeting.

**Action Calendar 2024 on Feb agenda**

### **Site Access**

CT reported that droppable bollards are to be installed outside the house at the entrance to the Countryside Centre.

### **Green Flag Feedback**

CT handed round the summary Feedback Report following the Green Flag inspection. Since the RS achieved a successful outcome in 2023, next year the Green Flag organisation will use a Mystery Shop approach. CT handed round a copy of the elements to be judged. PP has suggested that the group complete

survey this month, in order to formulate projects and areas for improvement based on the findings. **Action: All group members.**

### **Coronation Event**

VFW asked whether the Friends proposed an event linked to the Kings Coronation. After a discussion it was decided not to pursue.

### **Anne Frank Tree**

CP reminded the Friends about the Anne Frank tree in the Wildlife Garden and the lack of any information as to its history. CP requested if details could be posted on the Friends FB page in advance of Holocaust Memorial Day 27 Jan. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Friends FB could be used to remind people of the existence of the tree and its location.

**Date of Next Meeting – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023 12 mid-day @ Countryside Centre, RSCP**