



## **Friends of Rising Sun Country Park Meeting: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

### **Minutes:**

**Present:** Keith Taylor, Eric Styan (Treasurer), Keith Page (Secretary), Claire Partleton (Chair), Janet Weatherburn, Val Watson, Dave Gordon (NTC), Dennis Nelson, Pat Nelson, Chris Tallack (NTC) Jo Reed and Gary (both Percy Hedley), Ian Hogg (McDonalds)

**Apologies:** Janice Robson, Dennis Nelson, Pat Nelson

### **Collaboration Opportunities**

**Gary and Jo (Percy Hedley)** introduced themselves. Their service users do a lot of craft woodwork and are also involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme as well as the John Muir Award. They are looking to look after a specific area - possibly to the rear of the centre where the raised beds are. They are looking for an all-year-round situation so service users have somewhere to go / something to do in the winter. The service users attend Monday to Friday 52 weeks a year. They are mainly aged 19-25 but can be from 18 to 60+. DG, SG & CP will meet Jo and Gary after this meeting to progress this.

**Ian (McDonalds)** introduced himself. He is a Customer Experience Leader and his new Business Manager (Tracy) wants to get staff involved. This may be with litter-picks or with events where they could set up trestle tables, marshal events, etc. Will get involved with the Great British Spring Clean. Ian or Tracy will also attend our monthly meetings.

### **Minutes 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - Matters Arising**

#### **Great British Spring Clean**

This is 25<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022. We shall arrange a big litter-pick for Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March, just after the Parkrun. CP asked whether we should then re-introduce monthly litter-picks. Agreed we should and these could be through the week. Also suggested we have a quarterly 'big' litter-pick.

## **S.106 Monies & Canopy**

Kp updated the meeting re s.106 monies from housing development at Station Road North. Kp and CP met Neil Hodgson (New Overall Parks Manager) and Jackie Hunter (Biodiversity Officer for NTC) and Cathy Davison (environmental Architect) to discuss s.106 spending. JH has sent some details of time-frames for spending the monies. At that meeting Kp and CP asked if our Group could be involved in planning how to spend the money which will be coming in from the recently-started development to the west of Station Road North. NTC officers were receptive to this request. Kp & CP also asked if some of the new monies could be spent on the patio and canopy. JH would have to check with Planning and Assets and would get back to us. First swathe of new monies would come in to NTC once the first house of the new development is occupied.

### **Pond Reed Clearance**

This has now been done. Jackie Hunter had asked if the Friends' Group could be involved in maintaining the pond. Need to wait until the Spring and then tidy up the edges and check the depth of the pond. Some money may be available from JH for aquatic planting.

### **Donation Box Painting**

The Donation Box has been painted (thanks to CP for doing this).

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bird Food Donation Box in café £20. Calendars have been a good fund - from sales in the café a further £77 was raised . Currently have £15.72 in cash and £2514.04 in bank. £126 also came in from the Christmas Raffle.

### **Calendars**

Update: £489.60 Printing Costs; £250 Sponsorship; £330 Bakery Sales; £361.25 Café Sales; £55 Other Sales; Total £996.25 less £489.60 = £506.65 plus the extra £77 = just under £584.

### **Fund-Raising Raffle:**

Sales Total £140 less 10%. Confirmed this (less the 10% the company took) is the £126 mentioned above. One prize still to be collected.

**ASDA entrance.** Still awaiting progress on this issue. Kp has followed-up with NTC but is awaiting some confirmation of timescales from the Head of Regeneration (NTC).

### **Bird Watch Weekend 28<sup>th</sup> January**

Unfortunately, Storm Malik brought down trees causing the Centre to close on 28<sup>th</sup> January. Several members of the Group did do the birdwatch in their own gardens.

### **Northern Power Grid/Flight Diverters**

CP has followed-up but Northern power Grid have been busy with storm damage. CP to chase.

### **Meadow**

No update this month.

### **Volunteer email**

ES had invited the volunteer to this meeting but they are not here. Kp to email them with the Minutes of this meeting.

### **Volunteer Groups**

CP has passed details of two companies to DG. DG confirmed EE, Accenture and Newcastle Building Society are offering. DG is dealing.

### **AOB**

### **Moving On**

CP advised Loraine is moving on to pastures new. Soirée on 24<sup>th</sup> February at 1pm at the RSCP Centre. JW unable to attend due to school holidays.

### **Facebook Page**

CP informed the meeting 'Participant Requests' issue is being resolved as FB have changed it so we can view the messages before we accept them. CP also advised that FB are also rolling out a Community Fundraiser section which we should get but haven't got yet.

### **Date of Next Meeting:**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 12 mid-day at the RSCP Centre.