



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park

Meeting: Friday 8th April 2022

Minutes:

Present: Eric Styan (Treasurer), Keith Page (Secretary), Claire Partleton (Chair), Janet Weatherburn, Val Watson, Ian Hogg (McDonalds), Keith Taylor, Jan Casson.

Apologies: Chris Tallack (NTC), Vivien Fenn-Webber, Rev'd Rae (RS Neighbours)

Minutes 11th March 2022 - Matters Arising

Great British Spring Clean

CP informed the meeting that the litter-pick attracted a good turnout, with over 70 bags of litter plus some large, bulky items collected. CP has updated Keep Britain Tidy on our pledge to collect 10 bags. Monthly litter-pick will have to be organised when DG (NTC) is back from leave - proposal that first one is on a Thursday morning. 1st Shiremoor Scouts have also done a litter-pick. Kp in touch with Persimmon's re blown-in rubbish in the burn on the west side of the park - Kp to follow-up.

Collaboration Opportunities

Ian Hogg Present. 1st Shiremoor Scouts want to help. SG (NTC) has ok'd for Scouts to take responsibility for a small area in front of one of the centre buildings.

S.106 Monies & Canopy

Kp updated the meeting re s.106 monies from housing development at Station Road North. Maxine Ingram (Planning) has stated use of s.106 monies to build a canopy next to the café is not appropriate. Kp to challenge this. KT asked if this means the idea of a canopy is dead. Kp stated we had taken six years to raise just £2500 so without s.106 then yes.

Treasurer's Report

Outside Donation box emptied but not yet counted. Duck food box emptied twice - £15 and £19. Bird food box also emptied twice - £17 and £26. ES asked if we could advertise on FB Page - CP to arrange. Currently have £52.59 in cash and £2704.24 in the bank.

Calendars

Fewer photographers posting their pictures - presumably post-covid they are back at work. It was discussed whether to have a month where children submitted their pics but the difficulties re crediting (naming) children make this very difficult. Agreed to keep it as it is.

ASDA entrance

No update.

Northern Power Grid/Flight Diversers

No update.

Meadow

No update.

Volunteering

DG emailed SG, CT, GS re volunteering. Await update when DG back from leave. JC has experience of fund-raising - possible event in the summer such as an open day, craft event, dog show, photographers, etc. VW asked if Teddy Bear's Picnic is going ahead this year. CP said she is not sure if it is happening. Northumberland Wildlife Trust have planted some trees in the grazing field south of Swallow Pond - CP did advertise the event on our FB page. Only received an email last week from NWT asking if we were helping - had to be advised this was too short a notice.

Facebook Page

CP & Kp advised there had been issues since the appalling attack in the park and Group Rules would be adjusted to state we would only promote events which were pre-approved by Park Management. Our FB page is about promoting the park which, to many, is their 'happy place'.

Bedding Plants

Summer bedding has not arrived yet but ASDA have kindly donated some bulbs and plants which CP and JW have put in, brightening up borders near the Centre Grounds' entrance.

10mph signs

Kp still to see if it can be turned round.

Child Safety Near Car Park

Awaiting DG response.

Cherry Trees

VW advised she had been in touch with Urban Green who manage Newcastle's Parks. They planted 26 cherry trees at a cost of £385 per tree. VW has contacted Halls of Heddon who can supply 7ft trees at £57.50 per tree. VW has emailed the information to DG who suggests the Centre Grounds, which is the responsibility of SG. VW to continue to look into the possibility.

NTC Attendance at Our Meetings

It was noted that there was no presence from NTC at our meeting with both DG and CT being on leave. Members expressed concern that our contribution isn't being valued by NTC. Volunteers are being deterred by a lack of direction by NTC - what does NTC want from us? Group wishes to raise our concerns with Neil Hodgson (Overall Parks Manager). KT suggested we ask Management re their priorities for the Park. Kp to ask NH to attend our AGM next month.

AOB

CP advised that our details on NTC FB page were out of date - CP to follow-up.

CP advised that she had enquired about the Gene Pool data and has received a 'holding' response.

CP and Kp will liaise re the Environmental Records Information Centre (ERIC) project which is to be collecting data between Saturday 29th April and Monday 1st May.

Date of Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be our *AGM* and will be on Friday 13th April at 12 mid-day at the RSCP Centre.