



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park Meeting: Friday 16th September 2022

Minutes:

Present: Janet Weatherburn, Jan Casson, Dave Gordon (NTC), Eric Styan (Treasurer), Dennis Nelson, Chris Tallack (NTC), Vivien Fenn-Webber, Claire Partleton (Chair)

Apologies: Keith Page (Secretary), Stephen Gibbinson (NTC), Keith Taylor, Pat Nelson, Graeme Sample (NTC)

Matters Arising from minutes of previous meeting - 12 August 2022

RSCP Farm

Farm manager no longer in post. No formal update has been issued by the Farm Trust as to the next steps, however members of this group are aware of individuals with an interest and commitment to the farm who wish to make it work in the long term.

- ACTION – await update from Farm Trust.

Section 106 Monies

DG reported that a query raised by Planning resulted in a delay to the funding paperwork being submitted. This paperwork has now been submitted (on 15th September) and should go to full Investment Program Board in two weeks time. Despite this delay, contracts for projects work remain in place and should commence once the necessary approvals are in place. This includes the woodland thinning works.

- ACTION – await NTC update at next meeting.

ASDA entrance

Work ongoing. Nothing further to report.

- ACTION – none required.

Flight Diverters

No further communications received from Northern PowerGrid.

- ACTION - CP email Kevin Parkin for a progress update.

Card Reader/'Easy Fundraising'

Further discussion was had regarding the benefits and limitations of having a card reader. It was concluded this is not a viable option at

present. In the future, should our fund-raising activities change, this can be revisited.

CP confirmed that the FRSCP did not need to be a registered charity to enrol in this scheme.

- ACTION – CP to enrol FRSCP in ‘Easy Fundraising’ scheme.

Cherry Trees

VW was not present to give update. DG agreed that NTC would be able to prepare the ground prior to any trees being purchased.

- ACTION – VW to contact DG prior to purchasing trees to ensure that the necessary ground preparation is done prior to delivery of trees.

Volunteering & Jobs List

DG reported that the recent advertising campaign had generated minimal interest, although corporate volunteering continues with varying numbers of participants.

The group compiled a list of jobs around the centre and wider park that required attention, this will be the focus of Thursday’s Volunteer Mornings over the coming months and will be promoted via Facebook Group. (Please refer to attached jobs list)

- ACTION – CP to promote Volunteer mornings on Facebook.

Willow Structures for the Wildlife Garden

CP, JW and JC met prior to this meeting to discuss and plan designs for the new living willow structures in the wildlife garden. It was agreed that a new ‘wigloo’ structure would be created with three tunnel entrances at the site of the existing willow tepee. A seat arbour would also be created where the willow archway was removed in the Spring. All remaining willow will need to be removed and ground prepared before new willow whips can be planted in late autumn.

- ACTIONS – Removal of old willow to be done at next Thursdays Volunteer morning (22nd September). CP to request volunteer help via FB group.
CP to liaise with DG and Justine regarding date for planting up the new structures.

Tree Leaning on Wires

Unsure if this has been done. DG reported that as the site inspection report deemed this not a serious/ dangerous issue it wouldn’t be a priority action.

- ACTION – None at present.

Update of Park Maps/Interpretation boards/Signage

DG reported that artwork for the two separate maps cannot be merged and therefore a new map will need to be created. It is hoped that some of the Section 106 monies can be used to fund this.

A meeting on signage/corporate branding is due to take place on 6th October. DG reported that Elaine Elliott will be taking the lead on this for RSCP.

- ACTION – FRSCP to further liaise with NTC regarding interpretation boards, signage, and map update when S.106 monies become available.

NTC website information about FRSCP

Amendments agreed at last meeting have been made.

- ACTION – CP to email these documents to DG.

Green Flag Feedback

DG reported that the assessor was very positive about what he had viewed on his visit and the park achieved its highest score to date.

Thank you to everyone who worked hard to achieve this.

Further discussion was had regarding the assessor's suggestion to explore 'opportunities for an oral history of the park'. VFW reminded the group of a video she had been involved in producing which was available on YouTube – RSCP 'a brief history'. ES also has a contact who would be interested in sharing memories and DN suggested contacting Wallsend Memories Facebook Group.

- ACTION – further consideration required by the group. CP to contact 'Remembering the Past' as a possible starting point for this project.

Santa's Grotto

School Group Santa's grottos will be going ahead this year, and the Outdoor Education Team have requested help again with decorations and wrapping. It is hoped that several 'fairy/elf' houses can be created as part of the outdoor decorations this year. Please let CP know if you would like to get involved.

- ACTION – FRSCP to liaise with Outdoor Education. CP to seek additional volunteers to help via Facebook Group.

Litter picking

Monthly litter picking events to be hosted by the Friends Group on last Monday of the month starting at 11 am, starting Monday 26th September.

- ACTION- CP to promote via Facebook Group.

Natural History Society

Northumberland Natural History Society have been in contact and offered to support events in the park.

- ACTION – CP to follow up in this offer.

Treasurer's Report

Donations via Café £15 and Duck Food sales £11. Currently £48.44 cash and £2887.32 in Bank.

AOB

3D Felt Sculpture of The Stag

JC has completed a stunning piece of artwork of The Stag to display in the Centre. DG showed the group a slice of wood he had cut from a fallen tree onto which the sculpture can be displayed. As this wood will take some time to fully dry before it can be used, a temporary board will be prepared. It is hoped that FRSCP will be able to hold some event to mark the unveiling of this outstanding piece of art.

- ACTION – JC to organise mounting of sculpture on temporary board. FRSCP to liaise with Centre Staff for appropriate location for sculpture and possible date for unveiling event.

Bird Feeders

ES asked about the possibility of rehangng the bird feeders at the front of the Centre. Agreed that we would need to check with Centre grounds Team before resuming feeding the birds.

- ACTION – ES to check with SG and GS

Informal 'Friends Get Together' Mornings

ES suggested resuming the informal Friends 'Get together' meetings that ran previously. All agreed this was a good idea with lots of potential for involving the community.

- ACTION – Further discussion at next meeting.

Moth Survey

At the end of August, CP and JW met with Paul Heathcote who had set up his moth trap in the Quarry. Two orange underwing moths were observed. It is hoped that further attempts can be made next year.

Spring Bulbs

CP suggested that the group purchase some spring bulbs for the flower beds at the Centre Gates. All agreed to the purchase of bulbs up to the sum of £30.

- ACTION – CP to purchase a variety of spring flowering bulbs.

1ST Rising Sun Brownies/Guides

ES has been in contact with the Guide Leader and they have expressed an interest in participating in any projects the FRSCP may have running in the future. ES suggested they may wish to help with the planting of the Spring bulbs.

- ACTION – further contact with group leaders to be made.

**Date of Next Meeting – Friday 14th October 2022 12 mid-day @
Countryside Centre, RSCP**