



**Friends of Rising Sun Country Park
Meeting: Friday 9th December 2022
Minutes**

Present: Eric Styan (Treasurer), Janet Weatherburn, Jan Casson, Keith Taylor, Vivien Fenn-Webber, Ian Hogg (McDonalds), Pixie Phelan (NTC), Claire Partleton (Chair), Dave Gordon (NTC)

Apologies: Dennis Nelson, Val Watson, Pat Nelson, Stephen Gibbinson (NTC), Graeme Sample (NTC), Chris Tallack (NTC), Joanne & Rhiannon Hogg (1st Rising Sun Brownies & Guides)

Matters Arising from Extraordinary Meeting – 25 November 2022

- We have received the existing Friends mailing list from Keith Page. In line with GDPR requirements, we will ask if all the current members of the mailing list wish to remain on it. CP to send out message to all on current list. **Action CP**
- Friends have created a new Facebook page Friends of Rising Sun Country Park
- NT RSCP Facebook page links to the RSCP Community group not the Friends new group. We need to include the Friends as a link. PP to pursue. **Action PP**
- GDPR policy needs to be produced for the Friends. **Action CP/ES**
- We need to fill the Secretary position until AGM. **Action Next Meeting**

Matters arising from meeting 11th November 2022

Flight Diverters

No progress. Carried Forward.

Willow Structures for the Wildlife Garden

No progress to date. (Following meeting contact made with Justine and meeting planned for 24th/25th Jan to meet on site.)

Interpretation boards & Signage

Costs have been obtained from Victory Signs for replacement of the Waggonway 'locomotion' display board. New board using a tougher material from previous one £90 + VAT. Additional protection £25 + VAT. PP confirmed that Victory Signs are still an approved NT supplier and that funding will be from the S106 monies. ES stated that he will seek a cost of pre-drilling the sign. ES to produce a detailed order to be sent to PP to arrange purchase. VFW raised a concern about the previous board and that it was not a true copy of the original artwork but 'stretched' spoiling the result. ES has the original artwork produced by Mark Rasen and the electronic copies that were used for the previous board. ES to contact Victory to understand if some 'stretching' was an issue with the last board. **Action ES**

As also raised by VFW, all the original artwork can be returned to Mark Rasen with the Friends Group retaining electronic copies. **Action ES**

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

Monthly Litter-pick

CP reported November's event had new volunteers. No Litter Pick in December but to promote next year.

Natural History Society of Northumbria

Carried Forward.

Bird and Bat Boxes

PP suggested that it would be a good idea to have a record of the existing bird and bat boxes around the Park. This should include a comment of condition. **Action ES/KT/CP**

Cherry Trees

PP to walk the Centre grounds with SG to confirm possible locations. Due to the nature of the soil PP proposed that soil samples should be taken and checked for suitability. **Action PP**

PP also raised the issue of using native cherry trees and provided details of some possible native species. ES to contact VW to discuss and find out which species the supplier has. **Action ES**

Treasurer's Report

Donations via Café £15 and Duck Food sales £11. Purchases – £14.99 Sum Up reader. Currently £31.34 petty cash and £2556.04 in Bank.

AOB

Beeline Project

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**

RSCP Farm

It was reported at the meeting that the Farm Trust has folded and the Farm handed back to NTC. NTC have put out a tender for interested parties. All present said they would like the Friends to work in collaboration with whoever is successful.

PL insurance

CP had raised with NTC, concerns over Public Liability Insurance for the Friends and volunteers working in and around the Park. NTC have confirmed that members are covered when volunteering on behalf of NTC. CP also has details of a private PL Insurance costing £56 per year.

Possible Events 2023

- RSPB Garden Birdwatch 27 – 29 January
- Beeline project?
- FRS Litter pick Monday 30th January and last Monday through 2023
- 17 March – 2 April Great British Spring Clean
- 28 April – 1 May City Nature Challenge
- Dawn Chorus event? 7th May?

Date of Next Meeting – Friday 13th January 2023 12 mid-day @ Countryside Centre, RSCP