



## **Friends of Rising Sun Country Park Meeting: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

### **Minutes:**

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

**Apologies:** Graeme Sample (NTC), Keith Page (Secretary), Dennis Nelson, Pat Nelson,

### **Minutes 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - Matters Arising**

#### **Invited Guest**

Matt Sharp from the Rising Sun Farm did not attend the meeting and no apologies have been received. There are still serious issues and it was commented that gates are still without secure locks.

The problems have been raised via DG with NT Strategic Property and an Officer, Pam McGorie, has been assigned to look into the concerns. Nothing heard to date following e mail sent in May. DG has spoken to Margaret Hall, Chair of Trustees, and she is eager to set up a meeting with the Farm and RSCP Management to discuss issues.

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

A meeting has taken place to discuss the available funding and complete the paperwork which should have been approved on 6<sup>th</sup> July. Consultation has also started with the three Ward Councillors concerned to manage public reaction. We also need to use Facebook to inform followers.

Projects are ready to go and will start as soon as possible. Projects include:

- Fencing and grazing improvements
- Signage, public artwork and entrance improvements
- Woodland thinning and understorey planting
- Aquatic habitat management

- Improvements to footpaths

DG confirmed that the Friends Group can be involved in the planning stages for these works.

### **ASDA entrance**

Carried Forward

### **Northern Power Grid (NPG)/Flight Diverters**

CP and CT met with NPG on site. Some of the lines closest to Swallow Pond can't be touched for technical reasons, but diverters will be placed on other lines in the field. This work will be done at the first opportunity, most probably when maintenance is required in the area. NPG warned that negative publicity may result with people complaining about the aesthetics.

### **Meadow**

Elaine Moore from NWT who was leading on this project is moving to another job but was hoping to finalise the arrangements prior to leaving. Shaun Natrass is the current contact and the boundary map for the project in the Park needed agreeing. This project started just looking at the Meadow but has expanded potentially to the whole Park. The final boundary lines have now been agreed with Jackie Hunter (JH) but DG not sure what agreed and where. Apparently the Meadow is not to be touched because JH states there are important species there already that should not be disturbed.

### **Card Reader**

This was discussed looking at some of the benefits and limitations. Most of the readers are fired up by a dedicated mobile phone so we would need a phone per reader. JC to consider further but having a reader in the café would not work. An alternative may be having a separate opportunity for a donation via the café card system like you find in a restaurant but not sure how this could be set up to pay direct to Friends account.

### **Tree Thinning**

Tree thinning is linked to the S106 money. A meeting has taken place on site with a contractor so just awaiting finance coming through and the appropriate time of the year.

### **Cherry Trees**

VW stated that Halls of Heddon could deliver the tree(s) or NT may be able to organise pick-up. The last price she had was £75 each tree and we would now be looking to the Autumn for planting. DG and SG are happy for a non-native tree to be planted in the Centre grounds and this would also help protection/care. A site at the bottom corner of the grounds was suggested. There was a show of hands and agreement that this can go ahead funded from the Friends. Val will contact Halls to find out when stock is available. Two trees were mentioned and there was some concern over funding both. VFW offered to fund one of the trees but the initial feeling from those present was this was very kind but not necessary. (See late note)

### **Volunteering**

DG reported that an advertising campaign is planned to recruit volunteers. A single point of contact e mail has been set up [ntparks@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:ntparks@northtyneside.gov.uk). There is no further information on the HR application form.

### **Jobs List**

Most of the jobs from the initial list have been completed but one task that is needed is to tidy the Park grounds in preparation for the Green Flag.

### **Signing In and Out**

Nothing further to report.

### **Willow-Weaving**

Justine has been informed that we wish to go ahead with a feature and will arrange a date late autumn/early winter. The old willow has been cleared and thanks to all those involved in what proved to be a big task. The Friends need to look into design ideas for the willow.

### **Water Access for Raised Beds**

The hosepipes have been located and the water butts filled. ES has installed spouting connecting to a water butt on the shed and all we need is some rain!!

### **See-Through Bee Hive**

This has been discussed with a contact at the University and there seem to be a few issues. We need to discuss further.

### **Tree Leaning on Wires**

DG reported that following e mail contact, the site inspection deemed this was not a serious issue but the tree will be pruned back.

### **Update of Park Maps**

KP forwarded artwork to NT Marketing but it cannot be merged with what exists and a new design is needed. Design Team are looking to find the original artwork but it may have been lost. This gives a chance to redesign the leaflet with the consequential cost implications. Need to include Northumberland Estates in any discussions??

### **Interpretation Boards**

The board on the pit heap is old and damaged and has been removed. Sadly the Perspex heritage panel on the Waggonway has been broken and we need to consider replacement with tougher materials.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Counter Bird Food Donation box emptied - £24. Duck food box emptied twice - £10 and £5. External box also emptied - £11. Currently have £13.48 in cash and £2887.32 in the bank.

### **AOB**

VFW gave the sad news that her horse had died and that its name was Cherry. This was part of the reason for the offer to pay for one of the proposed cherry trees. This was greeted with sadness by all present and a possible reconsideration of a donation. Need to discuss at the next meeting.

CP raised the issue that the NT website for the Friends was out of date and we need to arrange amendment.

CP circulated some information about 'Easyfundraising' an online shopping website that generates commission from purchases made with online retailers which then transfers this into donations to causes registered with them. All agreed to investigate more before making a decision to register.

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

Historically we have not met in August but there was a general consensus that we could if enough members available. Our next meeting is therefore proposed for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August at 12 mid-day at the RSCP Centre.