



## **Friends of Rising Sun Country Park**

**Meeting: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

### **Minutes:**

**Present:** Janet Weatherburn, Jan Casson, Pixie Whelan (NTC), Eric Styan (Treasurer), Dennis Nelson, Chris Tallack (NTC), Vivien Fenn-Webber, Claire Partleton (Chair), Keith Page (Secretary), Stephen Gibbinson (NTC), Ian Hogg (McD's)

**Apologies:** Eric Styan (Treasurer), Keith Taylor, Pat Nelson, Val Watson

### **Change in NTC Management**

CP welcomed and introduced PW who gave a resumé of her Parks background and how she sees her role moving forward. PW has taken over management responsibility for the RSCP from Dave Gordon.

### **Matters Arising from minutes of previous meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

#### **RSCP Farm**

The meeting was updated re RS Farm Trust and RS Farm Trading Company. The Trading Company employed the Farm Manager but is now insolvent, with the remaining farm animals being looked after by volunteers. We are aware of a Petition being organised under NTC's Petition Scheme which will need 2000 signatures to have it discussed at a meeting of the Full Council. CP reminded the meeting of the need for the Friends' Group to remain neutral with regards to the ongoing situation with the Farm.

#### **Section 106 Monies and Canopy**

Kp informed the meeting that Planning had said s.106 monies could not be used for the proposed canopy, rendering that project 'dead in the

water'. Kp to email PW with copies of the s.106 agreements for the East Benton Rise and Fallow Park developments.

### **ASDA entrance**

Work finished - remove from future agendas.

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

CP has met Northern Power Grid and flight diverters should be installed on 24<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Volunteering & Jobs List**

Jobs list is ongoing. The old Willow has been removed and CP has emailed Justine re setting up a new Willow artwork.

### **Tree-Thinning**

Many trees have now been felled by the contractors. CT informed the meeting chipper that a is coming Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October with the chipped wood going to the biomass plant at Cramlington.

### **Willow Weaving**

Stumps of the old Willow removed. CP has emailed Justine for a date to start the new work. Group is paying for it.

### **Update of Park Maps/Interpretation boards/Signage**

CT suggested we put this on hold until the path works are done, in case new paths are created. It is hoped that some of the Section 106 monies can be used to fund the updated interpretation boards.

### **Treasurer's Report**

ES had passed latest figures to Kp, prior to going on leave. Bank account has £2929.24 and there is £29 in cash. Figures exclude cost of calendars and calendar sponsorship.

### **NTC website information about FRSCP**

CP to email PW the updated information.

### **Green Flag Feedback**

CP has contacted 'Remembering the Past' and will set up a meeting at Linksill next Thursday (20<sup>th</sup> October). Lots of history of the Park - hospital, landfill, refugee camp, pit, brickworks, bottle stores, tip, gun emplacements, and more.

### **Santa's Grotto & Fund-Raiser**

JC & CP suggest a fund-raising event before Christmas, where we can promote the calendars. JC will make a recreation of a photo or a pet-portrait in felt as a raffle prize. JC suggests a table sale, too, with this all happening on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Awaiting update from Heather re Santa's Grotto - 1 week before 28<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Litter picking**

Monthly litter picking event started Monday 26<sup>th</sup> but was poorly-attended. Next one will be Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

### **Natural History Society**

CP has emailed James Common at the Natural History Society and is awaiting a reply. CP has been contacted via Facebook to see if there were any plans for nature talks/walks - PW to give CP some contact details for potential speakers/leaders.

### **3D Felt Sculpture of The Stag**

JC informed the meeting the sculpture is currently being mounted onto its temporary mount, with plans for it to be displayed in the Exhibition Room.

### **Bird Feeders**

ES has liaised with SG and some feeders have been replaced at the front of the café. Need to be vigilant to ensure rodents aren't attracted.

### **Informal 'Friends Get Together' Mornings**

It was suggested this goes 'on hold' until the Spring.

### **Spring Bulbs & 1<sup>st</sup> Rising Sun Brownies**

CP has purchase some Crocus and Daffodil bulbs and will get the rest. Suggested the additional ones be Snowdrops or Grape Hyacinths. Joanne Hogg (Brownies) will lead on planting on 5<sup>th</sup> November, with help from CP and JC.

### **AOB**

PW informed the meeting Heather has asked for some help with re-thatching one of the structures - help needed with bundling the thatch Monday to Thursday of next week.

**Date of Next Meeting - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022 12 mid-day  
@ Countryside Centre, RSCP**