



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park Meeting: Friday 12th August 2022

Minutes:

Present: Eric Styan (Treasurer), Vivien Fenn-Webber, Keith Page (Secretary), Dennis Nelson.

Apologies: Claire Partleton (Chair), Val Watson, Jan Casson, Janet Weatherburn, Keith Taylor, Chris Tallack (NTC).

It was noted with disappointment that no one was present to represent NTC.

Minutes 10th June 2022 - Matters Arising

RSCP Farm - Insecure Livestock Fields

Bull has been moved to within the farm area but has, apparently, managed to 'escape' from here, too. No chains or back-up security on the fields' gates. Another cow was out loose earlier this week with Police involved in its return to its field. Update needed from DG re meeting with Margaret Hall (Chair of Rising Sun Farm Trust).

S.106 Monies & Canopy

Kp has had updated spreadsheet from NTC confirming there is around £600k to be spent on the park and on Public Rights of Way in/adjacent to the Park. Update needed from DG/NH re any progress.

ASDA entrance

Finally happening but motorists are just ignoring the temporary 'No Entry' signs.

Northern Power Grid (NPG)/Flight Diverters

CP still awaiting a date from NPG for their installation.

Meadow

As the meadow cannot be touched (due to the species growing there) it was agreed to remove this from future agendas.

Card Reader

No update.

Tree Thinning

Update awaited from DG.

Cherry Trees

VW informed Kp that Halls of Heddon should have new stock in place towards the end of September / beginning of October. Kp had said to VW that the trees should not be ordered until a decision had been made as to whom will prepare the ground, dig the holes, put in the relevant materials to encourage root growth, stake/secure the trees and nurture them through to the Spring when the roots would start to grow into their new surroundings. It was also suggested that a specific site is agreed and is checked for suitability (i.e. the soil would be fertile enough to support the new trees) before they are ordered. We could not have the trees lying about without all of the above in place. All present agreed this with details of whom will do the above needing to be agreed at our next meeting [in September].

Volunteering

Update awaited from DG.

Jobs List

New list needed.

Signing In and Out

Nothing further to report.

Willow-Weaving

Kp informed the meeting that CP would like to have a pre-meeting before September's meeting to explore design ideas, before giving them to Justine. ES asked if Justine would be at that meeting. Kp said that CP would be co-ordinating this and anyone interested in being involved to let CP know. Time for the pre-meeting suggested for 1130.

Water Access for Raised Beds

Issue is now resolved and all we need [still] is some rain!!

See-Through Bee Hive

No update - Kp to pursue.

Tree Leaning on Wires

Update awaited from DG.

Update of Park Maps

Update awaited from DG.

Interpretation Boards

The board on the pit heap is old and damaged and has been removed, as has one to the east of the pit heap. The Perspex heritage panel on the Waggonway was smashed by something of great force such as a sledgehammer. It had been made from toughened (bus shelter-style) Perspex with a reinforcing back panel. Further update awaited from DG as s.106 monies in place for update of information/interpretation boards.

Treasurer's Report

Duck food selling well. Bird Food Donation Box emptied three times in last month with £14.40. £15.69 and £8.46 collected. Expenditure of £7.99 for bags for the food. Currently have £11.76 in cash and £2887.32 in the bank.

AOB

Duckweed Net

CP has asked if she can buy a net for the duckweed for Lily Rose Pond. Agreed this can happen.

NTC website

Needs updating, in terms of the Friends' Group 'raison d'être' and activities. CP has provided two draft versions of an updated offer. Agreed to use them with slight re-wording. Kp to send suggested re-wordings to CP.

Easyfundraising

CP had previously 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. Agreed we should pursue this but need to check whether we need to be a registered charity as some similar fund-raiser sites require this.

Green Flag Feedback

Part of the feedback had suggested 'opportunities for an oral history of the park'. Should we contact 'Remembering the Past'? Agreed it was interesting to pursue - could use our FB page to invite stories of the past - not just the pit, but also the hospital, landfill, WW11 use, etc. As it is now some 53 years since the pit closed, those with memories of those times are reducing in number. ES has a contact who would like to do this. VFW suggested Wallsend History Group. DN suggested Julie Frater of Wallsend Memories FB page. Kp suggested there was a lot of 'known' information out there which would correct some of the park's information boards, such as a walker who remembers 'Pitch and Toss' still existing as late as 1978 when he moved to Battle Hill. VFW knows someone who was a 'lookout' for this illegal but widespread activity. Agreed we should explore every avenue of this idea.

Santa's Grotto

Heather has asked if we can help support this again this year, including wrapping gifts, etc. Names to CP if you can help please.

Litter-Picking

This has slipped from the radar. CP suggesting we resume it on the last Monday of each month, starting in September. Agreed for this to happen.

Natural History Society

They have been doing a study of ladybirds on the park and are offering to do a presentation. Agreed this would be nice to have, especially if it were an event open to the public. Natural History Society have also offered to support events on the Park.

VFW's Horse

ES reminded the meeting of VFW's offer to buy one of the Cherry Trees, in memory of her horse, also called Cherry. Agreed to raise this again at the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting:

Friday 9th September at 12 mid-day at the RSCP Centre, with a **Pre-Meeting at 1130** to discuss design ideas for the Willow-Weaving.