



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park Meeting: Friday 11th November 2022

Minutes:

Present: Eric Styan (Treasurer), Dennis Nelson, Keith Taylor, Ian Hogg (McDonalds) Pixie Phelan (NTC) Chris Tallack (NTC), Claire Partleton (Chair)

Apologies: Val Watson, Janet Weatherburn, Jan Casson, Pat Nelson, Vivien Fenn-Webber Stephen Gibbinson (NTC), Joanne & Rhiannon Hogg (1st Rising Sun Brownies & Guides)

Main Agenda Item – Resignation of Group Secretary

The group discussed the handover of group secretary responsibilities following the resignation of Keith Page at the end of October. PP highlighted issues around GDPR and data protection issues that the group needs to be mindful of with regards to mailing lists and keeping members contact details. PP recommended that all group data should be held by current committee members, including mailing lists and the FRSCP Gmail account. She also suggested that the email be managed by more than one committee member. It was also agreed that admin of the Facebook group should be the responsibility of current committee members.

- **AGREED ACTION** – ES to contact KP to arrange for handover of mailing lists, membership list, Gmail account and FB Admin role to the current committee members.

Matters Arising from minutes of previous meeting– 14 October 2022

RSCP Farm

It has been reported by local news media outlets that NTC are seeking new leaseholders for the Rising Sun Farm. PP suggested that this process was likely to be long and arduous. No further information was available via NTC website, but PP stated that she will keep the group informed of any developments she becomes aware of.

Section 106 Monies

CT & PP informed the group of an additional £9000 of S.106 money, from the Hadrian Park Estate Development, that had not been spent. This allocation is to be used on entrance and street furniture

improvement works. It will cover the area from Hadrian Park entrance to the centre grounds gates. This work will be undertaken by contractors and will include the installation of removable bollards at the entrance which will be of benefit to Park Run. Provisional approval has been granted for the proposed works and full approval is expected from IPB next week.

Flight Diverters

CP has received information from Northern Power Grid that the diverters should be installed by the years end. The previous deadline being missed due to them not having the correct planning permissions in place.

Tree Thinning Works

Phase One of this scheme of works has now been completed. Phase Two should begin in September 2023.

Willow Structures for the Wildlife Garden

CP has emailed Justine regarding a date for commencing work on the new structures and is awaiting a response.

Interpretation boards & Signage

ES is to obtain details from KP regarding the supplier of the transparent information board that was smashed in the summer. It was confirmed by NTC that this could be funded from S.106 monies.

PP reported that Elaine Elliott (NTC) will be coordinating the work on directional signage in the centre grounds after Christmas.

New signage and interpretation boards will also be looked at in the New Year, with Friends Group being invited to contribute.

NTC website information about FRSCP

CP confirmed that amendments to Friends Group information has been uploaded to NTC website.

Link - <https://my.northynteside.gov.uk/page/5760/friends-rising-sun>

Monthly Litter-pick

CP reported October's event was attended only by committee members. All agreed to continue to promote via FB.

Natural History Society of Northumbria

CP has received a reply from James Common (Senior Naturalist) who has confirmed that he will be able to help with events in the New Year.

PP has also forwarded on contact information to CP of another person who may be able to offer guided walks for the group.

1st Rising Sun Brownies and Guides

IH reported that the Brownies had enjoyed the bulb planting session last weekend and were keen to get involved in other activities in the park.

CP suggested that they may wish to help with making new bug hotels in the Spring and would liaise with JH about this.

IH informed the group that the Brownies are making bird boxes and asked if some of these could be placed around the park. ES stated that he would like to put up some more in the wider park as there were already several in the Quarry and Centre grounds.

PP suggested that it would be a good idea to keep record of how many bird and bat boxes were put up each year.

Bat box designs circulated by PP following meeting.



Bat_Box_Design.pdf

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/garden-activities/build-a-bat-box/>

Cherry Trees

ES confirmed that a site for two trees had been identified in the centre grounds.

- **AGREED ACTIONS**
 - PP to discuss with SG & GS next week.
 - ES & KT to prepare ground and confirm suitability.
 - Group to liaise with VW regarding the purchase of trees when ground ready.

Treasurer's Report

Donations via Café £10 and Duck Food sales £21. Purchases – £19.98 on bulbs, £12 on keys, £7.99 on paper bags. Currently £20.19 petty cash and £2556.04 in Bank.

Christmas Grotto's & Events

CP reminded the group that the Schools Christmas Grotto events were due to start on 28th November and the Outdoor Education Team were asking for help with prep work. CP has a copy of Heather's list of prep jobs that the group could help with. A team of volunteers from Virgin Media will be coming into help on Tuesday 22nd and Friday 25th, but any

help that week would be greatly appreciated. Please contact CP if you're able to help.

CP also reminded the group that the Parks Christmas event would be taking place on 10th December and the Friends Group would be holding a fundraising stall on this date.

Feedback from Remembering the Past Meeting

CP gave brief feedback from this meeting, but group agreed to allow more time at next month's meeting for a more in-depth discussion regarding how to proceed with this potential project. CP agreed to circulate some of the information via email prior to the next meeting.

Link to website <https://www.rememberingthepast.co.uk/>

<https://www.rememberingthepast.co.uk/memory/jeans-memories-of-the-rising-sun-hospital/>

<https://www.rememberingthepast.co.uk/memory/memories-of-scaffold-hill-isolation-hospital/>

AOB

Beeline Project

ES reported that he had seen Northumbria Wildlife Trust planting bulbs in Plantation Woodland. CT & PP confirmed that NTC had been liaising with the Trust on this project and had expected to be informed by them of dates for volunteer planting sessions.

**Date of Next Meeting – Friday 9th December 2022 12 mid-day @
Countryside Centre, RSCP**