



## **Friends of Rising Sun Country Park Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th May 2024**

**Present:** Claire Partleton (Chair), Eric Styan (Treasurer), Janet Weatherburn, Vivien Fenn-Webber, Amanda Williams, Martin Huttly, Chris Tallack and Elaine Elliott (both NTC),

**Apologies:** Keith Taylor (Secretary), Jan Casson, Pixie Phelan, Amanda Bennett, Stephen Gibbinson

After the apologies were noted, the Minutes of the April meeting were accepted as a true record.

### **Matters arising from April 2024**

**Calendar for 2025** - The deadline for calendar photographs is September. Currently we do not have enough entries. We will remind our Social Media users to submit suitable photographs and also as a committee we should prompt individual photographers if we see suitable images posted on our Facebook site. **(AP1)**

**Greeting Cards** - We will run a poll on Social Media to see if there is an appetite for Rising Sun Greeting Cards. **(AP2)** We will also look at the possibility of a printer providing us with a smaller print run than the current quote we have received. **(AP3)**

**Voluntary Organisations Development Agency (VODA) Meeting update** - Amanda Williams and Claire Partleton met with Rebecca Williams who is the Governance expert at VODA to look at what basic policies and procedures the Friends group should have in place. VODA supplied examples of Friends Group Best Practice templates. Amanda Williams has agreed to take the lead on producing the policies, and work with the other committee members/friends to ensure they are fit for our needs. The Finance Policy will be the first one developed. **(AP4)**. All policies will be agreed by the committee and reviewed annually.

VODA has also provided a link to E-Learning suitable for Friends and volunteer Groups, including;

- Finance
- Governance
- Fundraising
- Adult Safeguarding

**Summer Fayre 14th August** - Claire will contact Asda about their entry for the Summer Fayre Scarecrow trail **(AP5)**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Annual Accounts have been audited by a qualified independent person, Catherine Parkes (CLP bookkeeping and Accountancy). See the minutes for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held 10th May 2024 for full details.

### **Big Green Week 8th - 16th June 2024**

The Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. In 2024, Great Big Green Week will take place between 8th and 16th June. This year's theme is "Lets swap together". The Committee agreed that the Friends Groups should take part in this year's event. The Friends of the Rising Sun will :

- Arrange a Litter Pick on Saturday 8th June ( **AP6**)
- Arrange to Swap plants from the Backyard Allotment week commencing 8th June (**AP7**)

**Update from North Tyneside Council (NTC):** Nothing to be reported this month.

### **Other Business:**

- Committee agreed the purchase of compost for the Backyard Allotment for the growing of new plants.
- Committee agreed to purchase Ear Defenders for use with the Shredder Machine (**AP8**)
- Due to Ward Boundary Changes the Park is now totally in the Battle Ward. The Committee agreed that Claire should invite the new Councillor to join us on a Litter Pick and also provide them with information about the Friends of the Rising Sun Group (**AP9**)
- At the meeting with VODA they suggested the Group should set a yearly budget at the start of the financial year. This will be discussed at next month's meeting. (**AP10**)

### **Forthcoming events:**

**Nature Discovery Walk: 16th May – book through Eventbrite.**

**March Litter-Pick: 27th May Note new start time – 10.00**

**Great Big Green Week - 8th - 16th June**

**Next Meeting: Friday 14th June 12 noon @ Countryside Centre, RSCP**