



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th October 2024

Present: Claire Partleton (Chair), Eric Styan (Treasurer), Janet Weatherburn, Amanda Williams (Minute taker), Martin Huttly, Jan Casson, Pixie Phelan (NTC)

Apologies: Keith Taylor (Secretary), Vivien Fenn-Webber, Chris Tallack , Elaine Elliott, Amanda Bennett, Stephen Gibbinson and Julie Cruddas (Councillor)

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

Matters arising from Sept 2024

VODA Policies - Budget - Amanda Williams will circulate a draft of the Finance document (AP1)

Bulb Planting - North Tyneside Council (NTC) have obtained the bulbs and are planning to advertise the event for 31st October as a family event. The FRSCP volunteers will also take part in the bulb planting, The FRSCP will also "give away " (hopefully for a donation) bulbs that were donated by Asda, for people to plant in their own homes.

Woodland Trust Trees - We need approval from NTC and a 6 digit map grid reference for the planting to support our application for the free trees. The free tree packs are available in March or November. Applications for the March delivery are expected to close in January, or sooner depending on stock availability. It's now likely that we will apply for a pack of trees to be delivered in November. Decision needed on which pack we wish to apply for (AP2) and agreement needed from NTC (AP3)

Pixie explained that NTC also has funding for trees and that the contractors who are currently undertaking forestry work will provide volunteers to help with planting

Wildlife Garden and Sandpit - Issue was deferred due to Stephens absence

Anne Frank Tree Plaque - The original Plaque is assumed lost. NTC are happy for FRSCP to pay for a replacement. However, there is confusion over the correct date for the memorial tree. The missing plaque had a date on it of 2012 but the heritage timeline in the visitors centre shows 2010. Claire has contacted the Anne Frank Trust UK to see if they have any record of the true date. Awaiting this information before progressing . (AP4)

Distribution of meeting notes and messages - Deferred until Keith can confirm if he has set up a new email address as per Sept Meeting. (AP5).

Green Social Prescribing - We have been added to the Social Prescribing list. Our nature activities and the opportunity to volunteer can now be sign-posted to people with mild mental health issues. Current volunteers may find the Mind online course helpful to raise awareness. The online course takes 90 minutes. See, link - <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helping-someone-else/conversations-in-the-community/>

Re-wilding course - Claire and Janet will attend the VODA run course and provide feedback to the group (AP6)

Calendar/Greeting Cards - Waiting proofreading by the Bakery. Once complete its ready to print.

Treasurer's Report

£100 of cash has been paid into the bank. Petty cash is currently £17.04 . Bills for compost and duck food are outstanding.

Pixie mentioned the actions NTC are taking to reduce the rat population in the Centre grounds. To help their efforts Eric agreed to add signage to our duck food asking people not to use the duck food to feed birds within the centre grounds (AP7)

Update from North Tyneside Council (NTC):

- Vital forestry work is continuing in the wood behind Asda.
- Celtic Village - Project is underway. Historic contractor engaged and design completed. Work to build the new roundhouse starts shortly with the aim of being completed before the Christmas fayre.

Forthcoming events

1. **Nature Discovery Walk:** 17th October with Gosforth Wild Web Rangers
Note: The November Discovery Walk has yet to be confirmed
2. **Litter-Pick:** 28th October
3. **Christmas Fayre** - 30th November. FRSCP will have a small table at the event to sell calendars ,greeting cards and bird boxes

Other Business:

It was discussed if the Friends could pay for a replacement for the interpretation board (the one designed by children) in the centre grounds because it is difficult to read due to its age. Heritage and or a map were considered as ideas for the board. No decision was reached.

Next Meeting: Friday 8th November 12 noon @ Countryside Centre, RSCP