



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 July 2024

Present: Claire Partleton (Chair), Keith Taylor (Secretary), Eric Styan (Treasurer), Jan Casson, Janet Weatherburn, Elaine Elliott (North Tyneside Council – NTC)

Apologies: Vivien Fenn-Webber, Amanda Williams; Pixie Phelan, Chris Tallack, Stephen Gibbinson and Amanda Bennett (all NTC), ASDA Community Champions.

After the introductions and apologies, the Minutes of the June meeting were formally accepted, with a slight amendment to the cash on hand figure. The correct sum is £ 58.92.

The following Action Points were then discussed;

Group Constitution: At the June meeting there had been a suggestion that an addition to the document should be considered. (The full wording can be found in the June Minutes). This was unanimously agreed, so Claire will make the necessary changes and will circulate the updated document. **(AP 1).**

Greetings Cards: A number of potentially suitable images have been received, along with the permission for us to use them, so we will review these, along with the potential images for the calendar for 2025 at the **September meeting, (September 13) which will start one hour earlier**, for those wishing to get involved in making the selections.

VODA Policies: Amanda Williams will meet with Eric to discuss introducing a Budget system, which should give us a better idea of the amounts we are spending in different areas **(AP 2)** but a new form for recording cash donations has now been brought into use.

Proposed Letter to the new Local Councillors: The wording has been agreed and Claire will send this out. **(AP 3).** It is hoped that by us making contact with them, we may be able to secure their support and co-operation, should the need arise.

Water Butt for the barbeque area: Eric will check to see what pieces of kit are required to make good use of the butt (it was agreed that he could go ahead and make whatever purchases were deemed necessary) and arrangements will be made to get this installed. **(AP 4).**

The **door handle for the Little Library** has been replaced.

Bulb Planting will be added to the Agenda for August. **(AP 5).** The best time to plant them will be late September/early October. We hope this can be a public event, but this will require agreement from NTC.

Treasurer's Report

There have been no changes since last month, which means that we currently have a bank balance of £ 4,496.24, and £ 58.92 cash on hand. One of the cash donation boxes was later emptied and the sum of £ 14.29 was recorded.

Update from North Tyneside Council

The main topic of discussion was the Summer Event on 14 August. Elaine had sent out the covering information, showing a map of where the various stalls, rides and events would be, a list of the roles which had been allocated to those helping out on the day, and the Health and Safety Risk Assessment. As before, it is a ticket-only event and those attending will be given 5 tickets, to be used on the activities of their choice. It was suggested that this should include the Hook-A-Duck game, where there will be a bucket on hand to receive any cash donations on the day. (If the extra ducks are needed, as we did last year, Eric will let Janet know). ASDA has delivered a number of prizes for this and the coconut shy (we haven't had a chance yet to see what they are or how many). Keith will donate coloured pencils as prizes, as these seemed to be popular last year.

Claire produced a copy of the Scarecrow Trail puzzle sheets, which is an excellent idea (well done, Claire). A few more of the groups who had agreed to make a scarecrow need to be contacted to make sure they're produced in good time.

Forthcoming Events:

The North Tyneside Garden Crawl is being publicised on Facebook, although the Friends' Group is unable to participate this year.

The next **Litter-Pick** is taking place on 29 July and we may be able to use better quality bin bags.

Other Business

It was noted that some Swift boxes had been installed across the park, and this was featured in the local BBC News website pages. However, NTC had been unaware that this was going to happen, until the morning of the installation itself.

The **next meeting** will take place on **9 August 2024**.