



## **Friends of The Rising Sun Country Park**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 November 2024**

**Present:** Claire Partleton (Chair), Keith Taylor (Secretary), Eric Styan (Treasurer), Jan Casson, Vivien Fenn-Webber, Martyn Huttly, Chris Tallack, (North Tyneside Council).

**Apologies:** Amanda Williams, Janet Weatherburn; Pixie Phelan, Elaine Elliott, Stephen Gibbinson and Amanda Bennett (all NTC).

After the introductions and apologies, the Minutes of the October meeting were formally accepted. The following Action Points were then discussed;

**VODA Policies:** Amanda has drawn up a proposed Budget document, which she will distribute when she returns. **(AP 1).**

**Trees from the Woodland Trust:** Claire will meet with Chris to agree which 'tree pack for community groups' to apply for. **(AP 2).**

**Plaque for the Anne Frank tree:** The Anne Frank Trust has been unable to provide any further information about the planting of the sapling in the wildlife garden. It was agreed that we will use the wording from the one that was originally in place. After a discussion, it was agreed that we need something robust on which to mount the plaque, and Chris will make enquiries to source a suitable flat stone. Eric will obtain prices for a plastic-coated plaque and a brass one and we will make a decision then. **(AP 3).**

**Distribution of Notes:** Keith has not been able to sort out a new e-mail address for the secretary's role, and he is hoping to do so over the coming weekend. **(AP 4.)**

**Re-wilding feedback:** this will be carried forward to the next meeting. **(AP 5).**

**Calendars:** These have been received and will be going on sale from Monday, in the café and the bakery, at a price of £ 6.00 each, or two for £ 10.00. The printing cost was £ 374.40.

**Greetings Cards:** These have also been received and will also be going on sale. 800 cards, (100 of each image) but only 400 envelopes, have been obtained, for a cost of £ 115.20. The selling price per card was agreed at 50 pence. **(Note:** after the meeting, 300 envelopes were obtained at a cost of only £ 9.00). Both the Calendar and Cards will be advertised on social media and we'll be selling them at the Christmas event on 30 November.

The notice has been installed in the centre grounds, asking the public **not to scatter duck food** there, to try and prevent rat infestation. Thank you to Eric for this.

**Interpretation Board:** Vivien has a contact for a graphic designer so she will contact him to see if he is still in business. Stephen (NTC) will be approached to see if he is happy for us to proceed with creating an historical information map for the existing board. **(AP 6).**

**Donation Box:** Although this was broken into, it was agreed that, with NTC permission, we will continue to use it and ensure that it is emptied regularly. If it is broken into again, we will re-consider how we can encourage donations for the produce on offer.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Currently we have £ 4,640.56 in the bank and cash of £ 24.84, although the calendars and cards now need to be paid for.

### **Update from North Tyneside Council**

Discussions about the Wildlife Garden and the Sand-Pit area will, once again, be carried forward. **(AP 7)**. The clearance work in the Plantation Wood (behind Asda) has now been completed and planting there is scheduled for February next year.

**Planning Document:** This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

### **Forthcoming Events:**

The next **Nature Walk** is on 21 November.

The next **Litter-Pick** is taking place on 25 November.

At the **Christmas event** (30 November), in addition to the calendars and greetings cards, we'll be selling bird boxes, at a suggested price of £ 7.50.

The Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland will be undertaking the annual **New Year Plant Hunt** on December 29<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. For those interested, Claire has the details and has registered the groups interest in taking part.

### **Other Business**

Vivien has come across a few of the display screens which have been used in the park, which are various images which have been printed or etched onto plastic and she will drop these off at the Centre, in case these are of use to the Council.

**There will be no meeting in December.**

**The next meeting will therefore be on 10 January 2025.**