



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

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 August 2024**

**Present:** Amanda Williams (Chair), Keith Taylor (Secretary), Jan Casson, Janet Weatherburn, Vivien Fenn-Webber, Martin Huttly; Elaine Elliott and Chris Tallack (North Tyneside Council – NTC)

**Apologies:** Claire Partleton (Chair), Eric Styan (Treasurer); Pixie Phelan, Stephen Gibbinson, Graham Sample and Amanda Bennett (all NTC), ASDA Community Champions.

In Claire's absence, Amanda Williams chaired the meeting. After the introductions and apologies, the Minutes of the July meeting were formally accepted.

The following Action Points were then discussed:

**Group Constitution:** The up-dated Constitution document has been distributed.

**VODA Policies:** Amanda Williams hasn't had a chance to meet up with Eric to discuss introducing a Budget system yet, so this item will be carried forward. **(AP 1).**

**Proposed Letter to the new Local Councillors:** The letter to the recently-appointed Councillors has been sent out. 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:** The butt has been moved into the barbeque area and Eric has been checking to see what pieces of kit are required to make the connections. It was previously agreed that he could make whatever purchases are required. **(AP 2).**

**Bulb Planting:** Parks across the wider North Tyneside area are about to put in their bids for bulbs, and the Rising Sun bid will be included. It is possible that the Education Team may be incorporating bulb planting into their activities and anything left over will become available to be planted in other areas. The meeting agreed that the Friends should get involved in the planting and, if necessary, make additional purchases. It is unlikely that we could accept bulb donations (for example from ASDA), as only certain types can be planted. The most likely time for the planting to go ahead is looking like mid-October. If the Friends were looking to make this a public event, there would have to be someone from NTC in attendance. A decision on this, as well as where the planting should take place, can be made next month. **(AP 3).**

**Treasurer's Report:** Amanda read out the information which Eric had provided; we currently have a bank balance of £ 4,540.56 and £ 20.89 cash on hand, with a small sum to be paid for bird food.

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

The main topic of discussion was the **Summer Event on 14 August**. Ticket sales are, so far, down on last year's sell-out event, so it is hoped that things improve over the remaining days. There is no scope for ticket prices to be reduced before the event. It was noted that at other venues, including other NTC parks, free events were being held; however, it was pointed out

that entrance to this event includes five tickets for everyone attending – the only extra costs would be for food and drink. With this in mind, we are asked to ensure that for every ride or attraction, including the hook-a-duck, a ticket must be collected. (We haven't done this in previous years). We will have a collection bucket on hand in case anyone wishes to make a donation on the day. In terms of prizes, it is quite unlikely, especially in view of the number of tickets sold so far, that we will run out. A number of nature-themed books have been handed in from an NTC team elsewhere and these will be added to the prizes donated by NTC Rising Sun, ASDA and others. Those volunteering on the day are asked to arrive by 9.00 if possible and to park in the ASDA car park, as space will be extremely limited at the Centre.

Tenders have been received from the companies wishing to carry out the work to **remove the fallen and damaged trees** in Plantation Wood, and these are now being examined. Once the clearance work has been completed, a programme of re-planting will be carried out.

Once the summer fayre has taken place, NTC will be looking at their plans for the sand-pit area and the Wildlife Garden. It was suggested that this could be an opportunity for the Friends to make a financial contribution, in view of the monies held. This can be discussed at the September or October meetings. **(AP 4).**

NTC are well aware that there are still some drivers, including taxi drivers, who are either unaware of, or are simply ignoring, the signage when leaving the park, and who drive towards ASDA. Currently, there are no plans to add more signs, or to re-paint the road.

### **Forthcoming Events:**

There will be no **Nature Walk** in August. The next **Litter-Pick** is taking place on 26 August (Bank Holiday).

### **Other Business**

It seems that the plaque for the Anne Frank tree has gone missing; it may have been moved when the grass cutters were at work, and hasn't been replaced. This would need to be discussed with Graham, who is currently not at work. It was agreed that if another sign was required, the Friends would pay for it. **(AP 5).**

The September meeting (Friday, 13<sup>th</sup>) will start one hour earlier so that those who wish to can help review the images we have received for the Calendar and Greeting Cards. If anyone has any images from Phil Westgarth or Elaine Brown, can they please bring them with them on the 13<sup>th</sup>, so that these can be considered. We may find, over the coming months, that meeting rooms are more difficult to book, especially during term time, so we may need to use other rooms.

Still nothing to report about **the Farm**, even though it was hoped the new tenants would be in place by September.

The **next meeting** will take place on **13 September 2024 at 11.00.**