



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 April 2024

Present: Claire Partleton (Chair), Keith Taylor (Secretary), Jan Casson: Pixie Phelan, Elaine Elliott and Stephen Gibbinson (all North Tyneside Council – NTC)

Apologies: Eric Styan (Treasurer), Janet Weatherburn, Vivien Fenn-Webber, Amanda Williams, Martin Huttly; Ian Hogg (McDonalds); Chris Tallack and Amanda Bennett, (both NTC), Rev. Dr Rae Caro.

After the formal introductions and apologies, the Minutes of the March meeting were accepted as a true record, with a correction to a small typographical error. The reference to the **Bird Boxes** should read; “the Friends have been advised that the NTC Tree Team may be able to put these up, once we have identified suitable locations”.

Matters arising from the March Meeting

Bird Boxes: Nothing to report this month. To be carried forward. *This will be taken off the agenda and put onto the planning document with suitable locations being identified later in the year.*

Calendar for 2025: Claire has checked with the printers, and while they can accommodate different types of artwork, such as photographs and drawings, the recommendation is that we stick with just one type, as this gives a better finished image. Consequently, we will be using photos only, but we can encourage children to take part.

Greetings Cards: Once an order is placed, it will take between three and four weeks for delivery. Printing on the rear of the cards, such as our logo and name, will come at no extra cost, however, printing on the inside would be extra. As a suggestion, we could select possible images from those posted on our Facebook pages. **(AP1: to set up a process to begin selecting images).**

VODA Meeting: The meeting scheduled for 15 March has been put back to 19 April. **(AP 2).**

Summer Fayre on 14 August: Another reminder that the names of those able to help out on the day are needed. **(AP 3).** It seems that the hook-a-duck equipment which Eric has previously supplied may not be available. Pixie may be able to acquire one from Northumberland Park in case no-one else is able to provide any alternative equipment. A number of groups have promised to provide models for the scarecrow trail.

Boot-Scraper for the Education Team: After giving this matter further thought, NTC will be purchasing new equipment.

Annual General Meeting: The Planning Document shows the date for this as 8 June, but the confirmed date is **10 May 2024**. As part of our preparation for this, documentation has been sent to Catherine Harris-Parkes, who has kindly agreed to provide an independent audit assurance for our financial records.

Fencing to protect the Skylark Nests: Claire has forwarded the e-mail in which this request was made to Pixie and this is now in the hands of NTC. A short discussion was held regarding the benefits and cost to existing habitats. It was also noted that as the farm hasn't been operational for several months, the birds may be nesting in farm fields, and this may be something the new farm tenants might wish to consider.

Re-development of the Sand-Pit area: Once the Summer Fayre has been held, NTC will arrange a planning meeting, which is likely to take place in September. *This project will be added to the Friends Group planning document.*

Treasurer's Report

Although Eric had sent Claire a number of documents for the Finance Audit, she was unable to identify anything specifically relevant to this meeting, so this will be addressed in May, when we have the AGM.

Update from North Tyneside Council (NTC)

There is a possibility that the dilapidated buildings at the rear of the café, in the allotment area, can be demolished and replaced with pre-fabricated buildings, and it is envisaged that the Friends group would have access to part of the new structures. No time-scale is yet in place, although a site visit is being arranged for 15 April.

This year's **Green Flag** judging has been arranged for a date in May. Pixie gave a summary of the 27 different areas of activity which will be considered and she distributed a document which goes into these in detail. If anyone would like an electronic copy of this, please contact Claire. As well as physically inspecting the site, the judging team will hold a meeting with the NTC team. It is hoped that some of the Friends' group could be in attendance on the assessment day, to discuss our own activities, and show the judges the allotment area. In addition, the NTC park team will be inviting committee members and volunteers to join them and the judges to an afternoon buffet (likely to be 1.30 to 2.30) where we can have an informal chat and ask questions. It is likely to be in mid-July before the result of the judging will be known.

Forthcoming events:

18 April: Nature Discovery Walk

26 to 29 April: City Nature Challenge. Please let Claire know if you are interested in getting involved.

29 April: Monthly litter-pick start time 10 am.

Next Meeting: Friday 10 May 2024: Annual General Meeting 12 midday @ Countryside Centre, RSCP