



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

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th July 2025**

**Present:** Claire Partleton (Chair), Eric Styan (Treasurer), Amanda Williams (Secretary) , Jan Casson, Janet Weatherburn, Elaine Elliott (NTC), Chris Tallack (NTC), Vivien Fenn-Webber, Janet Chapman.

**Apologies:** Keith Taylor, Amanda Bennett, Asda Reps, Ian Hogg

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

**1 Brass-Rubbing Plaques :** Ongoing. Claire will discuss with the Education team after the Summer Fair. On hold until then, action point carried forward. (June AP1)

**2. Inspection of the new trees:** Trees were inspected as part of the June Litter Pick. Weeds and brambles were also cut back around the trees . Overall the trees are doing well. We discussed the fact that a lot of the weed suppressing mats had not survived well and whether NTC wanted to buy the same mats for the next assignment of trees, due in November. NTC agreed that they would. Action point closed, no further action needed.

**3. Quarry Refurb:** Elaine will check her diary and arrange volunteer days . We agreed that a Thursday ( normal volunteer day) would be best, at least to start with. ( June AP3)

**4. Scarecrow Trail:** Claire has completed the scarecrow trail guide, it is now with NTC for printing. One Scarecrow is still outstanding . The deadline has been extended. It has however been included in the trail guide . Once this one has been received there will be 15 scarecrows in the trail. Action closed.

**5. Hook A Duck:** Hook a duck has been purchased. However Asda has not responded to NTC email about the fair. NTC will prompt them further. Action point to purchase hook a duck closed.

**6. Willow Weaving:** Celtic Village on hold . Therefore action is closed awaiting progress.

**7. Patio Willows:** Both willow hedges have been trimmed . The activity has been added onto plan so we can monitor hedges going forward. Action closed.

**8. Secateurs and Sharpeners:** Purchased. Action closed

**9. NHSN ( Natural History Society of Northumberland) Heritage project:** Voda signposted the NHSN to FRSCP as possible contributors to their heritage project . NHSN is undertaking a heritage project called "Nature's Cure," which aims to collect and share stories about how nature has helped people in the North East of England, particularly during challenging times. The project will explore how nature has historically played a role in the lives of people in the North East, drawing on historical records and archive. They are offering a session at the Hancock Museum for community groups. A number of the volunteers agreed to take part in one of these sessions. ( July AP 1)

**10. 2026 Calendar:** The committee agreed that the FRSCP should do a calendar for 2026. However, to date only 3 potential photos for the calendar have been received. The calendar's photos need to be selected and confirmed at the September Meeting. It was agreed that Committee members would help select the photos using ones that had been posted onto our facebook group. The following was agreed:

January - Claire ( also August)

February - Janet Chapman

March - Eric ( also July)

April - Janet Weatherburn ( also Sept)

May - Jan ( also Oct)

June - Amanda W ( also Dec)

July - Eric

Aug- Claire

Sept - Janet W

Oct- Jan

Nov- Vivienne

Dec- Amanda W

Vivien also agreed to select a cover photo for the calendar. The photos need to be sharp, in focus with no fuzzy lines and ideally in portrait format

The details about the process will be shared shortly.  
( July AP 2)

#### **11. Treasurer's Report.**

- £14 from card. £26 in duck food and tiny amount from allotment table
- Petty cash held is £45.46
- In bank £4605.83. That does not take into account the recent purchase of sharpener and secateurs
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**12. Plan:** Nothing to report

#### **13. NTC Update.**

Summer Fair - volunteers agreed to arrive from approx 8.30 to help set up

Elaine has issued the Risk Assessment document to the FRSCP volunteers who are helping on the day. **Volunteers MUST READ AND SIGN** before the event .

#### **14. Forthcoming Events**

- Nature walk - 17th July. Because it's the start of the Big Butterfly Count on 18th the walk will focus on butterflies
- The Big Butterfly Count 2025 is between the 18th of July and 10th of August.
- July Litterpick on Monday 28th July

#### **15. AOB**

- Jan asked NTC about the Terns on Swallow pond. Chris said he has been told that the youngsters are fledging
- Eric asked about the boxes of 2nd hand books in the Volunteers room that had been left over from previous bric a brac stall. We discussed whether we could put some in the small library near the cafe but Claire confirmed that it was full and very well used.

**Next Meeting: Friday 8th August, 12 noon @ Countryside Centre, RSCP.**