



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th June 2025

Present: Claire Partleton (Chair), Eric Styan (Treasurer), Amanda Williams (Secretary), Jan Casson, Elaine Elliott (NTC), Keith Taylor, Janet Weatherburn

Apologies: Pixie Phelan, Vivien Fenn-Webber, Chris Tallack, Amanda Bennett, Martin Huttly, Asda Reps, Janet Chapman.

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

1 Brass-Rubbing Plaques : Ongoing. Claire will arrange for the plaques to be delivered to the Rising Sun Centre. **(AP1)**

2 Perspex Screens Installation: On Hold. Elaine (NTC) asked if we could put this on hold due to a potential refurbishment of the cafe. On hold until August. Plan updated to reflect this.

3. Inspection of the new trees: Roz (FRSCP Volunteer) undertook a review of the newly planted trees and reported that approximately 50 trees (10%) have failed to grow. This is actually a good result. She also reported that weed growth is not a problem. However, the weed suppression mats have degraded. It was agreed that a further inspection would take place on Thursday 26th June (**AP2**) combined with a litter pick and mini Bio-Blitz. During the inspection the viability of purchasing more of the weed matting will be considered.

4. Quarry Refurb: Elaine explained that the Quarry has been badly eroded. NTC wants to have a different approach to the Quarry use, with less footfall, a more natural area with increased wildlife but also improved safety. Elaine will arrange a volunteer day in July or August **(AP3)**.

5. Summer Fayre:

- **Scarecrows** - In hand. Deadline Friday 20th June. Claire will start preparing the Scarecrow Trail **(AP4)**
- **Hook-a-Duck** - ASDA have approached Elaine. Claire will contact Asda about running the Hook-a-Duck game. **(AP5)**. It was also agreed that the Friends should purchase their own Hook-a-Duck. Eric will investigate options and costs **(AP6)**
- **On the day-** A number of people agreed to arrive early to help set up the fayre, including setting up the Scarecrow Trail.

6. Treasurer's Report.

- The Duck food is selling well and new food has been purchased.
- Cards are also selling well
- Financial situation - £116.07 in cash. £4855.67 in the bank
- The feedback received from the Auditor was discussed. She reported that the FRSCP group was financially well run with all expenditure supported by receipts. Also agreed the Aims and Objectives were clear. The recommendations made were also discussed (Use of bank card, Electronic bookkeeping) it was agreed that not feasible to take them forward.

7. NTC Update.

Christmas Event will be Saturday 29th Nov. The event will be similar to last year's event.

8. Forthcoming Events

- Nature walk - Thursday 19th June
- Litter Pick - Monday 30th June
- Gosforth Wild Web Event 23rd June. Claire has been asked to do a short talk about our sightings and activities. 5 members of FRSCP volunteers attending
- Need a date to complete the willow weaving **(AP7)**. Awaiting Amanda B (NTC) to coordinate.

9. AOB

- NTC asked if FRSCP could trim the patio willow before the Summer Fayre. Agreed to do 26th June **(AP8)**
- Janet W asked if we could purchase new secateurs. All agreed. Janet will purchase 2 pairs. **(AP9)** and, Claire will purchase a sharpener **(AP10)**

Next Meeting: Friday 11th July, 12 noon @ Countryside Centre, RSCP.