



Friends of The Rising Sun Country Park

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 May 2025

Present: Claire Partleton (Chair), Keith Taylor (Secretary), Eric Styan (Treasurer), Jan Casson, Martyn Huttly, Amanda Williams, Janet Weatherburn, Ian Hogg (McDonalds), Pixie Phelan and Amanda Bennett (North Tyneside Council (NTC)).

Apologies: Vivien Fenn-Webber; Elaine Elliott, Stephen Gibbinson, Chris Tallack (all North Tyneside Council), Janet Chapman (Friends of Rising Sun Neighbours).

This meeting followed on from the earlier Annual General meeting, and Amanda Bennett had joined. The Minutes of the April meeting were then accepted as a true record, and the following Action Points were discussed.

Brass-Rubbing Plaques: After a discussion on the different types of plaques available, we decided that we would not be proceeding with the ones showing different types of leaves, as these may not be currently available, and were not thought to be particularly impressive. The plaques showing a range of bugs were thought likely to be more appealing to the children who will be using them, especially the school children while they take part in the Education Team's activities, so we will be purchasing nine of these, along with one showing the Friends' Group logo. North Tyneside Council (NTC) will be meeting to decide where and how these are to be placed within the Centre grounds area. **(AP 1).**

Interpretation Board: It was agreed that this item will be left in abeyance, until the plaques are installed and we have a clearer picture of how the Centre grounds will look. *(Suggest putting this on the Planning Document?)*

Artwork on the Perspex Screens: Before these can be installed, they need to be cleaned and NTC will need to carry out some preliminary work. **(AP 2).**

Planning Document: The only items which required attention were the Interpretation Board (carried forward) and the preparation for the AGM (now closed).

Treasurer's Report: Eric had provided a detailed summary of the Group's finances for the year to 31 March 2025 at the AGM, and the only change to record since then was that the cash on hand figure had increased to £ 70.44.

Update from North Tyneside Council:

The Summer Event will be held on Thursday 24 July and names of Friends' volunteers were noted. Amanda, on behalf of NTC, expressed her thanks to those of the group who had helped with the creation of the screens for the new Celtic village roundhouse. Further work is required, especially as the material is drying quickly in the current hot weather. She will arrange a suitable date with Claire, who will then pass this on to the rest of the group. **(AP 3).**

Forthcoming Events:

The next **Nature Walk** is on 15 May (10.00 – 12.00)

The next **Litter pick** is on 26 May (10.00 start).

Other Business

It was suggested that we should carry out an inspection of the new trees which were recently planted, to see if any work was needed. A date during the schools' Half-Term might be most suitable. **(AP 4)**.

We have been approached by the First Rising Sun Rainbows – aged between 5 and 7 – who are looking to get involved on any nature-based projects with us. Unfortunately, the only times available are on Tuesday evenings, and given the Health and Safety implications, such as in the allotment area or on litter-picks, and the fact that we don't have a policy for working with small children, it was felt that unfortunately, this was not something which we could accommodate.

The Gosforth Wild Web project, with whom some of the Group have worked in recent years, is winding down, and as a "thank you" the Friends have been invited to an event at the Hancock Museum on 23 June from 10.00 till 12.00. It's a ticketed event, so anyone interested in attending should speak to Claire. **(AP 5)**.

Date of the next meeting: 13 June 2025 at 12.00