



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park

Meeting: Thursday 13th November 2025

Present: Eric Styan (Treasurer), Claire Partleton (Chair), Jan Casson, Vivien Fenn-Webber, Pamela Davies, Janet Chapman (Rising Sun Neighbours), Chris Tallack (NTC), Elaine Elliot (NTC), Stephen Gibbinson (NTC),

Apologies: Janet Weatherburn, Amanda Williams (Secretary), Keith Taylor, Brandon Mason (NTC)

1.0 Action Points from last meeting

1.1 Brass-Rubbing Plaques: Meeting to be arranged with NTC hopefully before the next group meeting to walk around Centre grounds looking at proposed sites for the rubbing plaques and seek agreement of their final locations. (Sept AP1). Once agreed CP will collate information for the proposed Information Board and trail leaflet. (Sept AP2).

1.2 Finance – Bank Signatory: All the Barclays paperwork has been completed and signed and returned to the bank for the authorisation to be finalised. (Sept AP5)

1.3 Conservation Volunteers Network: The Friends have now joined the Network. A Newsletter is produced regularly and CP will circulate via e mail as and when. (Oct AP4).

1.4 Public Liability Insurance: JC has looked into obtaining PLI through the Conservation Volunteers Network but struggling to find details. JC will try ringing to find more information. (Oct AP5).

2.0 Ongoing activities

2.1 Tree Planting: The trees have arrived from the Woodland Trust. A date needs to be agreed for planting. CP asked about corporate volunteer involvement following contact from a group but NT declined on this occasion. We will not be using the coir mats this time so planting will be quicker. This activity can be split over a number of Thursday volunteering days. The existing trees that have not 'taken' will be left. (Nov AP1)

3.0 Council Update

3.1 Education Team: The Education Team have a volunteers day set for Friday 21 Nov to set up for their school Christmas events. This will include decorating and wrapping presents. Help from the Friends if available. (Nov AP2). The wooden reindeer also need checking and repairing as necessary. ES to investigate. (Nov AP3).

3.2 Christmas Event 29 Nov: Need to help with decoration of the Exhibition Room and café. (Nov AP4). The Friends table will be selling greetings cards, calendars and bird boxes. ES to arrange float for the stall. (Nov AP5).

3.3 Unsafe building in the yard: NT have no more information on the future of the building and anticipate it will be a long process.

4.0 New Actions

4.1 Plaque for Front Beds: Some sort of recognition for the new planting at the Centre entrance was discussed. General agreement that some sort of plaque should be installed just to let visitors know of Friends work. CP agreed to look at possibility of painting a message on slate that could be fixed in each bed. (Nov AP6).

4.2 Heritage Research Sub Group: CP suggested that following the recent involvement looking at the Park heritage, that a Sub-Group could be set up looking further at various areas of history of the Rising Sun. This was agreed and CP to advertise the new group on the Friends Facebook page asking if anyone would like to join. (Nov AP7). In the future it is hoped that Heritage walks could be arranged.

5.0 Planning Document: Nothing to report.

6.0 Treasurer's Report

Duck food box £30.40, calendars cafe £100, external table top £14.51, plants bought £223.84.

£20.51 in cash and £4279.08 in the bank.

7.0 Forthcoming Events

7.1 Nature Walk 20 Nov – NT not now supporting these so may not go ahead

7.2 Litter Pick 24 Nov

7.3 NT Xmas fayre 29 Nov

8.0 AOB

8.1 Duck Food Sales: Changes in the café have meant the duck food is not as accessible to visitors. We could place duck food on the Friends table outside on a Thursday to help sell it. CP to look at producing a sign on the slate tiles. (Nov AP8).

8.2 Calendars: The café have sold out of calendars (50) so it was agreed to get extras from the Bakery. ES to arrange. (Nov AP9).

8.3 Backyard Allotment: JC has some Heritage Beans that she is happy to donate to the Friends.

8.4 Friends Notice Board: CP would like to pass on the management of the Friends Notice Board in the foyer. ES happy to pick up this task but we need to agree what we post. All Friends to consider for next meeting. (Nov AP 10).

8.5 Rising Sun Farm: VF-W reported that there appears to be no progress on the future for the Farm and is not sure what has happened to those who have shown interest. CP wondered if a Freedom of Information request to NT might yield any information. VF-W and CP to consider. (Nov AP11)

9.0 Date of Next Meeting:

11 December 9.30 am, RSCP