



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park (FRSCP)

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th Sept 2025

Present: Claire Partleton (Chair), Eric Styan (Treasurer), Amanda Williams (Secretary) , Keith Taylor, Jan Casson, Janet Chapman (Rising Sun Neighbours), Vivien Fenn-Webber

Apologies:, Janet Weatherburn, Elaine Elliott (NTC), Pixie Phelan (NTC), Stephen Gibbinson (NTC), Chris Tallack (NTC)

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

1 Brass-Rubbing Plaques : Ongoing. Claire has discussed with the Education Team and with Elaine Elliott . The NTC Park Team agreed that the Friends Group should set up the trail in the Centre ground as well as the information board and trail booklet. The Brass rubbing trail is a FRSCP project and the group's responsibility.

FRSCP will identify the locations for the 9 plaques (the 10th will go on the Info board). NTC will sign off the locations (Sept AP1). Once agreed FRSCP will purchase the necessary posts and erect the plaques.

Claire will collate information for the trail information board and for the trail leaflet. She will circulate to the committee (Sept AP2).

2. Calendar 2026 - Calendars have arrived from the printers. The Cafe and the Bakery have been given a supply. The committee agreed to keep the price the same as last year (£6 for one for 2 for £10). Those whose photographs are featured in the calendar can receive a free copy. Claire will advertise the calendar on facebook and will ask the photographers to collect their free copy ASAP. (Sept AP3)

3. Calendar 2027 - The process for selecting the 2027 photographs will be :-

- Continue to use the dedicated calendar Whats App group
- Committee members will nominate photos each month (Landscape and sharp focus)
- Claire will collate them into a file
- Selection will take place in July or August 2026 by the committee.

Amanda will add an item onto the plan to ensure it is discussed and planned in the May meeting (Sept AP4)

4. NTC Xmas Fair - FRSCP involvement on hold until can discuss with NTC

5. New Action : Health and Safety (H&S) - Following the email from NTC about solo litter-picking the committee agreed that volunteers should not be undertaking any solo activities in the wider park. The FRSCP litter picking events will continue to follow the current H&S guidelines /risk assessment and continue to litterpick as a group. However, the committee agreed that they needed more clarity from NTC about the concerns raised in the email.

6. New Action: Finance Signatories - The Committees Constitution states that only the Committee Officers should be signatories , therefore we need to remove the previous secretary (Keith) and add the new secretary (Amanda). Eric agreed to start the process (Sept AP5)

7. New Caretakers role - There was a concern that the new caretakers role did not cover centre ground maintenance. The full job description has been provided and it states that they will work with the volunteers and assist in ground maintenance. No further action

8. Bar-B-Q key - The volunteers would like access to the Bar-B-Q area so that they can use the water butt that they installed to help water the flower beds at the Centre entrance. Ongoing as NTC were not at the meeting (Sept AP6)

9. Quarry Next Phase - The volunteers spent a day clearing out the Quarry on a date agreed by NTC but not all the Quarry was tackled . Is there further work needed by the volunteers? NTC was not at the meeting so activity closed until further instructions

10 . Plan: Amanda to add a quarterly check on the new trees (Sept AP7)

11 Treasurer's Report.

- Petty cash held is £29.89
- In bank £4587.83. That does not take into account the recent calendar costs

12 NTC Update. No members of the NTC park team attended.

The committee discussed whether they should re-structure the meeting i.e. only ask NTC to attend for part of the meeting or change the day to help them attend. Claire will discuss with Elaine (Sept AP 8)

13. Forthcoming Events

- Nature Walk will go ahead this month , 18th Sept . The theme will be early signs of autumn
- Litter Pick 29th Sept
- 23rd Sept, 2nd living woods session
- 15th October , NHSN Natures Cure project celebration event. Those volunteers who took part in the project can obtain a ticket for the evening event
- Permaculture course run by Garden Network - Janet Weatherburn will attend

14. AOB

- **Bird Food** - NTC have asked FRSCP not to sell bird food due to ongoing rat problems in centre grounds. FRSCP has bags of food (seeds, sunflower seeds , nuts and fat balls). If the volunteers want to purchase the food they can , the remainder will be donated to Gosforth Wildlife reserve
- Front beds/Centre entrance - The beds would benefit from replanting with low maintenance drought hardy plants. FRSCP plan was on hold due to the new car parking sign being erected, the plan will now be revisited.
- Eric suggested using the allotment beds for growing plants for the centre-grounds. The allotment is already being used to grow plants from seed and also to grow on donated plants before being planted out into the centre grounds. Further consideration is needed on 2026 allotment planting .

Next Meeting: Friday 10th Oct, 12 noon @ Countryside Centre, RSCP.