



## **Friends of Rising Sun Country Park (FRSCP)**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th Feb 2026**

**Present:** Claire Partleton (Chair), Amanda Williams (Secretary) , Eric Styan (Treasurer), Janet Weatherburn, Janet Chapman (Rising Sun Neighbours), Brandon Mason ( NTC).

**Apologies:**, Keith Taylor, Vivien Fenn-Webber, Jan Casson, Chris Tallack

After the apologies were noted, the Minutes of the December meeting were amended to correct Brandon's title to Park Attendant.

**1 Rubbing Plaques and Interpretation Board :** Ongoing. Good progress has been made. The invertebrate trail leaflet has been through proof reading from both a grammatical and technical perspective. Now on Version 3.2. Further reviews ongoing, including NTC Education Team and Kathy Sharp from Northumberland Wildlife Trust. Claire has been investigating best practice for the Interpretation Board, it is ongoing. ( Sept AP2)

**2. Public Liability Insurance:** Ongoing . Claire had received a quote , the main issue discussed by the Committee was the large excess amount the Friends would be liable for . The committee approved the quote because it will allow the FRSCP the scope for running independent activities. They agreed to keep a reserve of £1000 to cover the Insurance Excess . Claire will contact the Insurance company again to check that quote is still valid. ( Oct AP5)

**3. Plaque for front beds :** Stephen has given permission. Claire has painted a sign. Eric to organise the installation of the signs. ACTION CLOSED (Nov AP6)

**4.Heritage research sub group:** Amanda and Claire will meet to set up the sub group Terms of Reference and groups remit ( Feb26 AP1)

**5. Duck Food sale :** Sales are low. The committee discussed the issue . It was felt that low sales due to poor weather and the location of the Duck Food which is now hidden by the fridges. It was decided that the FRSCP would push the duck food over half term with social media posts and signage. They also need to discuss a possible new location with Stephen. It was agreed that more duck food should be purchased.

**6.** The Committee discussed the Rising Sun Farm and the fact that the tenant left August 2022 and despite a tender process , no successful bidder has been announced. As Secretary of the FRSCP Committee Amanda agreed to write to Ian Bethan,( Head of Estates, Strategic Investment and Facilities Management at NTC) to request an update . The Farm sits within the boundary of the Park and the FRSCPs remit is to help keep the Park a vibrant place for visitors and Amanda will use this aspect of the Friends activity in her letter. ( Feb26 AP2)

**7.Threads in the Ground Heritage .** No response to Claire's contact so AP CLOSED.

**8. Plan:** It was noted that next month preparations need to be taken for the yearly audit and the trees that had been planted will need an inspection. It was also noted that the remaining trees urgently need to be planted. Claire to contact Catherine Parks to see if she would audit the FRSCP again. ( Feb26 AP3)

**9. New Actions: National Federation of Parks day of action -** The Federation, of which FRSCP are a member, are planning a day of action on 18th April. The aim is to arrange activities that show politicians that local people care about their green spaces. The committee agreed that the FRSCP will get involved and will plan event over next few weeks ( Feb26 AP4)

**10. NTC Update:** Brandon reminded the Committee of the planting of the Sycamore gap sapling . He also mentioned the building of a fence around the sandpit play area.

## **11. Finance**

All monies for the calendars have been banked. Total income from calendars was £590. We also received a donation from the Bakery of £100. Therefore the total profit was £271.76

Breakdown of calendar sales:

Cafe sales - £388

Bakery Sales - £202

The committee agreed that the key to this year's successful calendar sales was printing them early.

The cards need to be pushed via social media.

FRSCP still have 6 bird boxes to sell. There is the possibility of selling them this month as part of Bird Box week. They will be advertised on social media and sold on Volunteer day.

Currently FRSCP have £3.34 in cash. £4743.72 in the bank

## 12. Forthcoming Events

- **Show the Love** - Climate coalition campaign . 14/15th Feb
- **Litter Pick** 23rd Feb
- **Nest Box week** - WC 16th Feb we will sell boxes
- **Sycamore Gap Sapling** 20th Feb
- **GB Spring Clean** 13th March - 29th March. FRSCP will do an event on 21st March
- **World Book day** 5th March. To celebrate the 27th anniversary of Gruffalo Claire will hide story stones in centre grounds. She has also rewritten Gruffalo into a RSCP version
- **Nature Walk.** Until Public Liabilities Insurance in place the walks will be for volunteers only. Next one 12th March

## 13. AOB

- Janet W shared the fact that the Telephone mast was no longer going to be located on centre grounds
- Janet C mentioned a talk we had attended by NNHS on Red Squirrels monitoring and research. RSCP has had a transient red squirrel population in the past but it has a large and growing grey population. Janet C will find out what's involved in the research and then The committee will decide if it's something the FRSCP should get involved with.

**Next Meeting: Thur 12th March 9.30 am Countryside Centre, RSCP.**