



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park (FRSCP) Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th March 2026

Present: Claire Partleton (Chair), Amanda Williams (Secretary) , Eric Styan (Treasurer), Janet Weatherburn, Pam Davies, Elaine Elliott (NTC), Chris Tallack (NTC) , Pixie Phelan (NTC)

Apologies:, Keith Taylor, Vivien Fenn-Webber, Jan Casson, Brandon Mason (NTC) , Janet Chapman (Rising Sun Neighbours), Stephen Gibbinson

1 Rubbing Plaques and Interpretation Board : Ongoing. Trail Leaflet and interpretation board information needs to be reviewed by the NTC education team. Pixie will ensure that is done. All , apart from one of the plaques have been positioned. It was suggested that the final plaque be placed on the sand pit fence. Stephen's view and agreement is needed before that can be done. It was agreed that there will not be a direct link to the trail on the interpretation board in case the board outlives the trail , however, there would be a QR code link to the trail which could be easily covered up or re-purposed. (Sept AP2)

It was suggested that the “ Can do board” in the wildlife area could be replaced with a board linked to invertebrates.

2. Public Liability Insurance: Closed. Insurance in place.

3.Heritage research sub group: Amanda and Claire will meet to set up the sub group Terms of Reference and groups remit on 18th March (Feb26 AP1)

5. Duck Food and Signs: Signs have been completed. NTC wishes to move the duck food to a new location to help with the flow of customers in the cafe. Once the duck food has been moved claire will advertise the duck food on Facebook .(March AP1)

6. Rising Sun Farm : At the last meeting the Committee discussed the Rising Sun Farm and the fact that the tenant left August 2022 and despite a tender process , no successful bidder had been announced. After that meeting the Battle Hill Ward Councillors announced in a campaign leaflet that 2 organisations had been awarded the contract. Claire wrote to Strategic property and NTC monitoring officer to request clarification and raise concerns about the sharing of information which contradicted the Authority's position as stated in the local press that the process was ongoing and confidential. As a result of this enquiry the NTC Monitoring Officer has confirmed that Northumberland Wildlife Trust (NWT) is the successful bidder but that the lease is still being finalised by the legal team and no announcement will be made until that is completed. Claire has also asked the NTC Monitoring Officer to clarify the Ouseburn Trust involvement in the procurement process because the initial response from NTC makes this unclear. When NWT were approached they said that they were the preferred tender. We are still awaiting clarification from NTC. (Feb26 AP2)

7. National Federation of Parks and Green spaces (NFPGS) , National Day of Action -

(Feb26 AP3). The committee agreed to take part in the day of action, which is being organised by the Community Planning Alliance on 18th April with a litter-pick and by launching the Invertebrate trail. It was suggested that the Litter-pick could start at the Farm. Amanda will add it to the plan. Once the event is planned , it will be promoted via social media and those committee members who use social media platforms will share the event to increase the number of people who see it.

For more information see -

https://communityplanningalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/260219_Day-of-Action_Campaign-Pack_Feb26.pdf

The NFPGS are a community led organisation of over 6,000 local Friends of Parks groups . FRSCP will receive their newsletter . The FRSCP took part in a survey last year commissioned by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government and University of Sheffield , 930 Friends Groups also took part.

8. NTC update : Tokens will be used for the volunteers' free hot drinks . No start date given

Up and coming NTC events :

26th May - Emergency Services Day

5th Aug - Summer Festival. This year it will run from 11am to 5pm and have activities for kids and adults. Will be run by an external provider

28th Nov - Xmas Fair

9. Plan: Public Liability Insurance review and renewal has been added. Trim the willow hedge has been removed. Greeting cards stock have been reviewed .

10. Finance

Recent purchases have included Duck Food and fixings for the plaques. Income from Bird box and duck food was £24 and £50 in donation box.

Currently FRSCP have £64.27 in cash. £4643.42 in the bank

12. Forthcoming Events

- **Litter Pick next regular date** - 30th March
- **GB Spring Clean** 13th March - 29th March. FRSCP will do a litter pick on 21st March
- **National Federation of Parks day of action** - 18th April Litter pick
- **Nature Walk.** 2nd Monday of the Month. Next one 13th April

Note: H&S assessment needed for the nature walk

There are 4 things that people can get involved with as a Friend of the Rising Sun

- Monthly Litter Pick
- Monthly Nature Walk
- Committee Meeting
- NTC Volunteer (need to complete NTC application form)

13. AOB

- Wigloo needs replacement rods. The wigloo will be monitored over the summer and a decision made on replacement rods in November (to be planted by March). Amanda will add to plan
- What to plant in a triangle of land by the caretaker's house ? Further consideration needed
- Red Squirrels monitoring. It was agreed that a talk from the Northumberland Recovery Network would not be arranged at this stage. Claire will write to Abbie McQueen, Northumberland Project Officer, Red Squirrel Recovery Network to outline the group's involvement through the Cramlington and District Red Squirrel Group. The committee will maintain a positive communication going forward.
- Stephenson Pond water quality. An undergraduate student from the Zoology Course at Newcastle University carried out a field study and identified very high levels of ammonia (above 8 parts per million). We shared the information with NTC

Next Meeting: Thur 9th April 9.30 am Countryside Centre, RSCP.

