



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

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th Aug 2026**

**Present:** Eric Styan (Treasurer), Pam Davies, Jan Casson, Janet Weatherburn, Elaine Elliot ( NTC), Chris Tallack ( NTC), Ruth (NTC), Amanda Williams (Secretary)  
- Chaired the meeting

**Apologies:**, Claire Partleton (Chair) Janet Chapman ( Rising Sun Neighbours), Keith Taylor

**Acceptance of Julys Minutes** - agreed

#### **Action Points**

##### **1 Interpretation Board :**

The committee agreed to use Acorn Workshop to produce the Interpretation Board. The Friends will supply the wording and imagery i.e. photos. Jan and Claire have already gathered suitable photographers but we will also ask other photographers who use our facebook group to contribute possible photos . By providing the words and pictures ourselves and not requesting Acorn Workshop to provide art work or design we will keep the costs down.

Eric has cleaned the existing Interpretation Board end supporting panels. He has also purchased a seal to preserve them.

We need to work out how the board will fit onto these supports because the current fixings are tamper proof so will need to be broken off

**2. Inventory of Friends Equipment :** Closed. Pam and Jan have completed.

**3. Heritage Bricks** - If Brandon agrees we will lay an edging in the wildlife garden. Eric will do a mock up to see how we can secure the bricks without bricklaying expertise

**4. Butterfly gate** - Chris explained that 2 companies had let him down. He now has a company to re-galvanise them . However, Chris will need to transport them to the company in Birtley. Currently trying to source suitable Council transport. If, this company falls through Chris will replace the gates back on the Waggonway entrance

**5. Calendar** - Deadline for printer is end of Aug. The question of the front cover remains. The committee voted on suitable cover photos in July, however, there was no clear winner. The snowy waymarker and the Rising Sun sculpture both came top.

Amanda mentioned that Claire had seen a recent photo of a Long Eared Owl on the Facebook Group and wondered if that was suitable. It was decided that as it's a rare sighting it might attract too much attention: not everyone likes birds; not sufficiently clear its the RSCP.

The committee agreed that the sculpture of the Rising Sun should be the front cover. However, there was no agreement on if the current photo was suitable or if a new photo was needed.

Eric asked if Micheal from the Bakery had been approached as in previous years.

## **6. NTC update**

NTC senior Managers have advised that the volunteers must wear Hi Viz jackets during Thursday sessions. Hi Viz jackets available in the Volunteers room.

Chris is renewing the interpretation boards around the wider park. He currently has 2 more to install and others will be in the pipeline.

The Electricity Board is replacing their infrastructure across the park . They will start the work on their own land/Stans field.

Next Thursday 11am to 3pm there is an inflatable event in the centre grounds. Elaine asked if any volunteers will be available to help

The hut in the woods will be left. Police are aware. It is being monitored. Likely to be removed after summer holidays.

## **7. Plan:**

2 items needing action. The calendar which is being actioned and a review of the greetings cards.

Amanda reported that last week the cafe staff had asked her where the cards were. They are in the cafe , acting as a shelf for the duck food. Amanda checked and cards were still available. Janet has improved the signage on the box.

## **8. Finance** : £108.82 in cash. £4726.33 in Bank

Income has been £37.41 from duck food. Outgoings have been the purchase of 2 scrapers , wood sealant and duck food.

## **9. Forthcoming Events**

- **Nature walk 14th Sept**
- **Litter pick 31 st Aug - Bank hol monday**
- **Xmas event 28th Nov 11am to 3pm**

## **10. AOB**

- Agreed to purchase a few watering cans
- Agreed to look at another water butt in BBQ area
- Could we use the dated gutter hopper from the hospital building as a planter ?

- Eric asked if we should paint the fence by sandpit. It was agreed that it wasn't FRSCP responsibility
- Eric mentioned that the lock from gate into Lily Pond is missing
- Northumberland estates will be rebuilding the bridge on their land due to large hole
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**Next Meeting: 10th Sept 9.30 am Countryside Centre, RSCP.**