



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park (FRSCP)

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th July 2026

Present: Claire Partleton (Chair), Eric Styan (Treasurer) Amanda Williams (Secretary) , Janet Weatherburn, Jan Casson , Janet Chapman (Rising Sun Neighbours). Elaine Elliot (NTC)

Apologies:, Pam Davies

Acceptance of Mays Minutes - agreed

Action Points

1 Interpretation Board :

Claire has obtained 3 quotes from companies who can manufacture interpretation boards for the “can do” board by the wildlife garden and the large board on the front lawn. The current preferred option is Acorn Workshop . They can supply both for £1,500. The boards will be graffiti resistant, recyclable and fire resistant.

The committee also asked Elaine to find out who NTC used for similar boards and also if the NTCs design department could provide the design element. (July AP1)

2. Inventory of Friends Equipment : Ongoing (April AP1)

3. . Remaining Front Bed - (May AP1) Committee agreed not to invest anymore money at the front beds.

4. What App review - Claire has reviewed the Whats App group members , removed ex members and added Janet Chapman. - CLOSED

5. QR for group - (MAY AP3). Done. CLOSED

6. NTC Print service - (MAY AP4) At last meeting Pixie took an action to check if the Friends could use the NTC print service because at the moment The Friends have been picking up the printing costs for the invertebrate trail and printing on home printer. Yes, The friends can use the service and NTC will cover the costs because it is of benefit to the park. The plan is for the Friends to continue to print themselves until the interpretation board is completed and the map can be updated on the booklet and then a bulk order will be placed with NTC . CLOSED

7. Heritage Bricks - The committee requires Brandon's agreement to progress with an edging in the wildlife garden. Ongoing.

New Actions

8. Amanda asked if it was possible to have a memorial for those who lost their lives at the Rising Sun Colliery . It was felt that it would be difficult to organise and a potential target for graffiti.

9 Calendar- The printer has offered a 15% discount if we can provide the photos by 31st August. The price would be £289.22. We need to select the photo ASAP. Committee members will ensure June and July photos are shared as soon as possible . The Friends will meet next Thursday at 9.30 to pick the 13 calendar photos (July AP2)

10. History Sub Group Update - Claire and Amanda have visited the archive at the Mining Institute/Common room ,Neville Hall, Newcastle . The Archivist provided a lot of information about the Rising Sun Colliery. Amanda has continued the research.

11. GDPR policy has been updated following recent law change The revised policy was circulated for comment and agreement in June. Keith had raised a number of questions and observations which have been addressed.

12. Love explore App - The National Federation of Parks and Green Space had an opportunity for 200 Friends groups nationwide to access a pilot Augmented Reality (AR) App for 3 months . It's free for 3 months. It has 3 trails - Mini beasts , butterflies and Tree Frairies. We can also create our own trails, add heritage points of interest and events that are happening in the park . The AR games will be ready for the start of school holidays.

13. NTC update

The maintenance hut by the backyard allotment will be demolished. No date yet

Hadrian Bears playgroup have a permanent presence in the Holystone room in the visitors centre , running Mon to Fri

Janet W asked about the Butterfly gates which were removed to be re-galvanised and not replaced. Unfortunately Chris was not at the meeting (July AP3)

14. Plan: The only item needing action this month is checking in on the trees planted in Plantation woods. Roz will check on them 13th July

15. Finance : £71.31 in cash. £4726.32 in Bank

Sale of duck food has plummeted

13. Forthcoming Events

- **Nature walk 13th July**
- **Living Woods, tree maintenance in Swallow field 17th July**
- **Litter pick 29th July**
- **Nature walk 10th Aug - Amanda will lead**
- **Butterfly The UK's Big Butterfly Count 2026 runs from July 17 to August 9.**

13. AOB

- Eric asked about maintenance of the Sycamore gap Sapling as it needs better support. Elaine will ask NTC for any hessian straps.

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Next Meeting: 13th Aug 9.30 am Countryside Centre, RSCP.