

FRIENDS OF COLLIERS WOOD

NOTES OF MEETING HELD AT GREASLEY S&C HALL ON WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2017

Present: M Fletcher; A Cooke; M Turner; A Fergus; J Smith; M Sutcliffe; G Caldwell; D Hill; C Riley;
R Turner

11.10.17 meeting notes- accepted as recorded.

Bob introduced Chris Riley to the members present and welcomed him to the meeting.

EVENTS AND MARKETING

Working Together events:

'Taster Days' program abandoned. Derek booked on 6/7th December hedge laying course. A 6'x2' linear banner with text inviting volunteers to join FoCW has now been requested. (Cost of an additional banner is £23. Meeting agreed purchase if necessary.)

MargaretT went through task schedule for the Winter Woodland Celebration event. Geoff will check stored signs and other event items. Janice & Geoff will check tree area for safe access and will pre-prepare Grotto tree in container. MargaretT will supply Santa's chair. Aileen will bring childrens stool. Janice has prepared alternative Grotto decoration that has a woodland animal theme. MargaretS has prepared Santas post box. Donation chocolate received. Some to be used in Santa's gifts. Aileen will source and prepare 60 gifts. All event posters distributed.

Chocolate tombola can be located either in car park or adjacent environmental tent.

Friends agreed that mayor and parish leader will not be invited this year to avoid physical overstress for MargaretT

MargaretT went through final staffing situation. Aileen confirmed Eastwood Scouts are booked. 9.30am site start.

Chris will investigate progress with revised site brochure.

All pages on the Fun-with-Learning website section updated. The Event/CDS page still has queries. Bob to re-issue to MargaretS.

MargaretS reported on the Kennel Club response. No explanation for missing listing on website but a promise to eliminate the 'problems'. FoCW meet all requirements for a Companion Dog Show.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCIALS

Madeleine confirmed that the current account with TSB was functional. The account name has also had to change. They have now informed us that the deposit account is 'dormant'. Friends agreed to transfer all funds into the current account.

SITE MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND PROJECTS

Chris was asked to detail the Broxtowe internal procedures to be undertaken before the CWAS project construction order can be placed. He will issue a time schedule to provide guidance of progress. Proposed contractor knows that we seek an early spring 2018 commencement on site. Commencement of the interpretation board design and procurement is overdue. Chris will confirm the visual area of the contents when Broxtowe's large board size version is utilised. FoCW to agree content and source images. FoCW to arrange design. Funding opportunities to be investigated.

Chris confirmed that the FoCW letter regarding possible scalloping of copse edges and introduction of un-mowed transitions at some copse edges was being considered.

Chris has provided dimensions for the Wetland Copse area. These enabled preparation of a draft of various approaches to the copse management plus an investigation of a coppicing system. Documents have been circulated for comments. Friends to view the area prior to a detailed discussion at the January 2018 meeting.

Chris presented his concept for habitat modification to the Horseshoe Meadow area. Restricted access would encourage greater use by small mammals and possibly reptiles. One important part

is to re-establish a pond structure. This may only be seasonally wet. It would have greater species benefit than the Large Pond which is overstocked with fish that eliminate amphibians and insect life.

The area would be seeded with hay meadow grasses and wildflowers. Annual cutting would help suppress tree and scrub shoots. Coppicing of some of the copse internal perimeter would be implemented to upgrade sunlight levels at ground level.

Friends questioned how the proposal would impact upon the sites water management system and its impact upon the Large Pond water levels. Broxtowe have the original drainage drawings in storage.

Chris proposed surveying the meadow to establish its levels and those of adjacent areas. This may reveal the practicality of retaining a water body. Friends also agreed that effort to remove all the opportunistic willow, birch and alder growth would help demonstrate the amount of surface water that can exist and in which months. Help to undertake this task will be sought. Chris also suggested the possibility of creating an uneven meadow surface to encourage basking.

Pruning of entrance road hedgerow is substantially complete. All incorrect species and diseased material removed. Some replanting needed especially on Engine Lane section. Chris will arrange delivery of 20 plugs for the infill work. He also drew attention to the Woodland Trust free plug offer.

Plan showing halo pruning in DH Lawrence Copse tabled to illustrate spread of the three chosen species treated. FoCW needs just two work sessions to progress as far as they are able. To complete, chainsaw work is required. Friends propose that this felling work is undertaken during their work sessions to ensure that the correct trees are removed and that they can handle the brash created. Chris will investigate possibilities of obtaining appropriate operatives.

Some of the trees will be partially left for standing deadwood. As they are within halo areas, they will be reduced to 2m height. When general pruning of this copse is commenced, some trees will be ring-barked.

The replacement bench at the junction of the Beggarley and Tupton Tracks does not have the plaque that was secured to the original. Friends will check to see if it has been fixed out-of-sight.

Chris reported that the donation picnic bench proposal is progressing. The same model as the CWAS project will be used but the colour may be different. The colour chosen will be used on any future donation picnic bench.

Geoff tabled different size fit samples of hi-vis vests that can have group name and 'VOLUNTEER' stencilled on rear. Cost is £6 each for all sizes. Fo Brinsley Headstocks use this supplier. Meeting agreed that they should be purchased. Chest size to be determined for each stated 'size'

SITE RECORDING AND ECOLOGY

Chris will investigate the current mix of the cereal crop in the central meadow. He believes it is a commercial mix for bird support. The change in colour has raised questions.

Janice and Derek continue to look at distinct areas to understand species role in those habitats. Derek also works on species recognition.

BAG Forum booked.

OTHER ITEMS

- Anne volunteered to organise the 'Christmas' lunch for the second week of January. All to be seated at one table. Proposal for a new venue was agreed.

THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE AT GREASLEY SPORTS AND COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY, 2018