

FRIENDS OF COLLIERS WOOD

NOTES OF MEETING HELD AT GREASLEY S&C HALL ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2018

Present: M Fletcher; M Turner; J Smith; M Sutcliffe; G Caldwell; D Hill; R Turner

Apologies received from A Fergus and A Cooke

8.11.17 meeting notes- accepted as recorded.

EVENTS AND MARKETING

Working Together events:

Derek praised the quality of the hedge laying training and value of the practical work.

Two 6'x2' linear banners have been ordered- FoCW pay for the additional banner.

The 1st aid rucksack with the booklet received. It is far more practical for use on work sessions.

Friends reviewed the Winter Woodland Celebration event. Concluded that the change of date was worthwhile. Environmental tent numbers declined. Tombola and Doggy Dip were popular. Santa's Grotto income didn't cover costs. Tree dressing was very popular. Janice gave example of continuing post event interest in the tree. Madeleine presented a breakdown of financial result.

Group agreed to invite Mark Dodd's 'Tasty Treats' to do all future catering.

FoCW profile was enhanced by the BBC Nottingham TV coverage.

No information on progress of updated site brochure.

Webpage for Dog show updated and new page created for Responsible Dog Ownership. Some tabs renamed for clarity.

Bob outlined the options for the public liability insurance coverage that has to be renewed in February. To obtain the cheapest price we have to reduce the number of public accessible events that FoCW organise. This will impact on the 2018 event programme.

Friends discussed the value of each of the normal events held. Concluded that the Companion Dog Show and Winter Woodland events would continue. Further consideration to be made for the Greasley Gathering. Pond dipping is presently unrewarding for participants. Only one work session will be open to the public. One CWAS project event will be included.

The WWC will be scheduled for the 25th November as this coincides with the 2018 National Tree Dressing Week.

Friends concluded that the minimum PLI event cover and cost will be use.

Bob to check with Tim before PLI renewal.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCIALS

Madeleine reported that difficulties with TSB persist. A change of bankers could be agreed at the 2018 AGM. Investigation of alternative needed prior to formal proposal.

The financial result of lottery 12 was reported. Lottery return has been made to Broxtowe. Prizes have been successfully distributed to winners.

Adding the 2017 'collection only' fund raising income to the Lottery 12 income, provides sufficient finance for the bird feeding station works to commence.

Notts Wildlife group membership renewed.

MargaretS proposed agreeing a specific purpose for any 2018 public fundraising. Friends to make suggestions of purpose at February meeting. MargaretT will investigate opportunities for public collections at different retail outlets.

SITE MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND PROJECTS

Meeting of Broxtowe's committee to approve CWAS project expenditure has been delayed until 15th February.

WREN has formally agreed the reallocation of funds from the display equipment items towards the cost of an interpretation board. Bob read through a draft list for the interpretation board content. More input needed and aggressive editing necessary to ensure relevance of content in 20 years time.

A graphic designer has been identified.

FoCW will need to obtain alternative finance for the display equipment needed.

The first mobility impaired access recycled plastic picnic benches has been installed at site. This is a donated bench that replaces an originally installed timber bench that failed.

Work on thinning of the Waterloo Memorial Copse has commenced. The Community Copse will also be thinned.

Completion of halo pruning in the DHL Copse awaits Broxtowe's chainsaw input.

Infill planting on entrance road hedgerow will be completed this month.

Geoff issued a format schedule for agreeing work session dates. Friends to return completed schedule to Geoff by next week.

Tim's response to FoCW proposed investigation of possible scalloping of copse edges and introduction of un-mowed transitions at some copse edges, was further discussed in detail. Friends will undertake the investigation of scallop possibilities.

The suggestion for a public consultation exercise for the management of meadow grass was considered practically unrealistic and doubts were expressed at the value/validity of response obtained unless there were a significantly high number of respondents. A postal drop by Royal Mail would enable delivery of consultation document throughout area, but retrieval would be a logistic challenge. Friends concluded that details of any proposed changes from the present management plan should be publicised and public comment invited. Bob to respond to Tim with fuller details of Friends thoughts.

FoCW consideration of the future management of the Wetland Copse involved some briefing documents and investigation of the impact of any coppicing. The eventual choice from the options identified, would not include rotational coppicing but will require substantial prompt thinning/removal of existing growth. Bob to finalise outline proposals, circulate for final comment and agreement and then propose to Broxtowe. Early contact with Western Power would be prudent.

Chris's proposed habitat modification to the Horseshoe Meadow area were again discussed to ensure that his recent emails did not alter FoCW's conclusions. Friends opinion is that it is more urgent to resolve the site drainage problems to ensure sufficient runoff reaches the Large Pond. This meadow area is already developing its own habitat. The removal of self-set saplings is needed. Bob to send Chris fuller response.

SITE RECORDING AND ECOLOGY

Chris confirmed that the supplementary feeding cereal crop mix was buckwheat, quinoa, sunflower, white millet and red millet. Friends concerned at the introduction of non-native plants. Original design intent for the site was for native vegetation only. Quinoa needs well drained soils.

As previously, the BAG Forum was very informative with pertinent topics and very good value.

Supplementary bird feeding will recommence at the viewing screen location. Feeders will be hung from a taught rope to deter any possible rats from climbing the trees.

OTHER ITEMS

- Friends expressed their enjoyment of the Christmas 'fuddle' that Anne organised and hosted.

**THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE AT GREASLEY SPORTS AND COMMUNITY HALL ON
WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY, 2018**