

Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 22 February 2012

Present

Marion Goodrich	Carole Danbury
Phil Goodrich	Rob Cook
Dil Griffiths	Joyce Bradley
Julian Hayes	Brenda Luck
Glen Sibley	

Apologies received from:

Emma Pugh	
Edna Sibley	Lyn Griffiths

Minutes of January Meeting

Agreed and adopted: proposed by Phil Goodrich, seconded by Glen Sibley.

Chairman's Report

Marion reported that she met with Howard Medicott recently as part of his plan to meet with a representative from each of the Friends' Groups in South Staffs. He is preparing a management plan and requested the following: a copy of FOBS constitution, a work log of FOBS activities from January to December 2011 (this enables him to put a value on the contribution made by Friends' Groups), relevant photos, and Emma's history of the Sandbeds. This is in hand.

The pond profile is now correct and Howard is taking further expert advice regarding installation of the clay liner, and also regarding the proposed decking. No date has yet been fixed for the clay liner. A variety of indigenous plants will be supplied for the pond. It was agreed that the pond would not be stocked with fish, though these may appear naturally in due course.

The contractor is going to chip the brush piles which have been left in the pond area. Also the contractor has a photo record on disc which he has promised to supply.

The pond will be a metre deep. Phil has contacted Severn Trent regarding filling the pond and is awaiting a response.

Howard has suggested delaying the official opening until spring 2013. He hopes to apply for Local Nature Reserve Status in 2013 and Green Flag in 2014.

Report from Emma

In Emma's absence, Marion reported that the calendar idea looked promising.

G & A Printers in Penkrige (01785 714330) will print at a cost of £1.60 each on quantities of 50 or 100. A competition for children to design the monthly illustrations is being organised. It is hoped to obtain sponsorship of £50 for each month from local businesses. The calendars will be sold for £5 each. Emma has also made contact with Kevin Arnold of Village News and is going to supply an article with photos for the April issue.

Report from Glen

The website has been revamped.
The notice board has been built and is ready for painting.

Report from Joyce

Joyce is contacting John Griffin re help with tree planting and Pete Bache re bird-box cleaning.

Report from Dil

Dil spoke to Scouts and Explorers last week. The leaders indicated that Sandbeds' activities will cover at least 2 badges and that this should encourage participation.

Treasurer's update

Phil reported a bank balance of £458.30 at 16th February 2012.
£36.76 has been paid to Glen for materials for the portable noticeboard.
£10 will be paid to the speaker at the March meeting.
A grant of £100 has been received from SSCVA for nestboxes. Therefore nestboxes have been purchased from the RSPB (good value in National Bird Box week) : 6 Apex 32mm aperture, 3 Diamond Robin & Wren. Total £101-97.
Phil and Julian hope to erect the boxes next Wednesday. The metal hole protector plates are out of stock until the end of March but these can be affixed later, unless an alternative can be found.
Ros at SSCVA has suggested that St.Dominic's annual fundraising event may be interested in FOBS (e.g. sponsoring the calendar) as they are keen on supporting local groups. Groups are invited towards the end of March.

AOB

Random planting in the Sandbeds is to be strongly discouraged: individuals or groups should seek permission before anything at all is planted.
Now that the pond has been excavated, it is clear that the silver birches need to be thinned: Howard Medicott is aware of this.
Julian observed that the large rubbish still has not been removed.
Working party Sunday 26th February 10am : Tree planting.