

Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds

Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd February 2017

Present

Marion Goodrich	Carole Danbury
Glen Sibley	Brenda Luck
Peter Rock	Lynn Pinson

Apologies received

Phil Goodrich, Joyce Bradley, Edna Sibley

Minutes of last meeting

Agreed and adopted: proposed by Glen, seconded by Pete

Chairman's Update

This morning the Chairman received an email from Ryan Taylor (SSDC) saying that he hopes to have the Management Plan finished soon. The trees have been felled as agreed, apart from the large one above the boggy area which is to be felled by a different contractor. Ryan has said that he can see no problem with members of FOBS using a leaf blower. We may consider acquiring one in the autumn. At the Working Party in January a lot of litter was collected and logs were cleared from the pond (though some logs have been thrown in again). The grappling hook, made and donated by Rob Cook proved very useful.

The snowdrops are better than ever this year and have an "established" look; there are also primroses flowering and evidence of birds nesting.

Report from Phil and Pete

Pete has erected the insect house which he made (and which Joyce filled with foxglove and teasel stems) on the Horsebrook Lane arch. Phil & Pete have re-installed fallen bird boxes and erected a new one. Two fallen bird boxes have been retrieved. Phil has alerted Ryan to a poorly drained section of path.

Pond-dipping Platform

Marion & Phil recently met Duncan from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust at the Sandbeds to discuss this proposal. Duncan suggests one platform, 1.5 metre

square with 2 legs, and has emailed details and prices. He would provide the labour, with 4 FOBS volunteers in support; this would be covered by his cover. Total approximately £700 (details on file).

Sue Hayes has kindly emailed details of Veolia's Enviro Grant scheme in Staffordshire which provides grants of up to £1000 to help local people improve their environment. Phil will attend the launch event on 16th March. Another possible source of funding is the "Growing a Greener Britain Scheme". Phil is making an application (though demand will exceed available funds).

Report from Lynn

"Brewood Matters" has a Facebook page which has good feedback and photos about the Sandbeds. This would therefore be another useful place to put our information.

Report from Glen

The grappling hook has been modified and strengthened and fitted with stainless coach bolts and wingnuts
The locks on the gates have been repaired.

Financial Report

Balance at bank £400.00
Recent details on file.

AOB

Margaret Deacon has contacted the Chairman via Facebook with childhood memories of the Sandbeds (copy on file) : Marion has invited her to send more memories of the Sandbeds.

Lynn has obtained details of a dog bin which includes a bag dispenser. Each costs approximately £100, plus £31 per 800 bags. After discussion this was thought to be a good idea but too expensive a commitment.

Tasks for the March Working Party include restoring fallen bird boxes and path clearing.

Next meeting : 22nd March 2017