

Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds

Meeting held on Wednesday 30th August 2017

Present

Marion Goodrich	Carolyn Redshaw
Joyce Bradley	Brenda Luck
Peter Rock	Lynn Pinson
Glen Sibley	

Apologies received

Philip Goodrich, Carole Danbury, Edna Sibley

Minutes of last meeting

Agreed and adopted: proposed by Lynn, seconded by Glen

Chairman's Update

Following the concerns of FOBS regarding the local NCS group and the fact that fund-raising was undertaken and local businesses were approached without prior consultation or our consent, the Chairman emailed NCS. No reply was received from NCS, who forwarded her email to the local leader Chris Evans. Mr. Evans replied apologizing for the delay and stating that he was awaiting collection of all the funds raised and would be in touch. There has been no communication since. This morning the Chairman received a follow-up email from NCS enquiring if the matter had been resolved; she will reply to NCS asking them to investigate this unsatisfactory situation.

Emails have been received from Ryan, Dave Heywood (now CEO), and Mark Jenkinson (now Assistant Director for Community Services) at SSDC. Dave Heywood is currently visiting all Friends' Groups and Marion & Phil were pleased to meet him for a walk round the Sandbeds. He was impressed with the site. The opportunity was taken to raise with him our concerns about the contractors, JKW, and continuing low-grade vandalism.

SSDC is offering FOBS a total of 1300 bulbs in 7 varieties from their annual order (copy of Ryan's email on file). These will be available later this year or early next.

Keith Elder is offering to arrange a Friends' Forum (date to be announced). All agreed that meeting other groups to exchange ideas and discuss best practice is helpful, long presentations are not.

57 primrose plants have been purchased with Phyllis's donation. These are being stored in Marion's garden prior to planting out next spring.

Marion has contacted Ryan re installation of the second pond platform. If the contractor is not available it may be possible for Pete & Phil to do this.

SSDC is setting up a Community Lottery. The launch event will be at Somerford Hall on 21/9/2017 and tickets will be on sale from 24/10/2017. Caitlin O'Hara enquired if FOBS wished to be on the list of good causes and to this end Marion has emailed her our logo and pictures of the site.

Year 4 with their teacher Louise Jackman will be visiting Sandbeds on 8/11/2017. Jo Scotton has asked Colin McShane if he would do a ringing demonstration for the pupils.

The last Working Party was attended only by Marion & Phil, who cleared more of the glade beyond Top Meadow ready for bulb planting.

Report from Glen

Glen last week attended a webinar regarding the updating of web security.

Financial Report

2/8/2017 £23.98 from cash float to Marion for 50 primrose plants.

3/8/2017 £260 Enviro grant received from Veolia to fund leaf blower and associated equipment. Phil attended the presentation in Stafford and he gets a mention and a picture in the Staffordshire newsletter.

16/8/2017 £350 Mark Sutton grant received to fund second pond platform.

Account balance £803.83

At her invitation, Phil has applied to Wendy Sutton for a District Councillor grant to fund additional bulbs etc.

AOB

Lynn has spotted a kingfisher at the pond on two occasions.

Diary Dates: Saturday 30/9/2017 Bulb planting 10 am

Sunday 1/10/2017 Visit to Kinver 11 am
Sunday 8/10/2017 Fungus Foray 10 am
Monday 23/10/2017 Sandbeds walk with Mark Jenkinson
Wednesday 8/11/2017 Year 4 visit

Next meeting: 27th September 2017