

Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds – Minutes of General Meeting

Brewood and Coven Parish Council Offices – March 29th. 2017

1) Attendees

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|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Marion Goodrich | Lyn Pinson | Carole Danbury |
| Glen Sibley | Peter Rock | Philip Goodrich |

2) Apologies

Brenda Luck, Joyce Bradley and Carolyn Redshaw

3) Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

No matters arising.

Adoption of minutes proposed by Glen, seconded by Lyn.

Carried by meeting.

4) Chairman's Report

- The pond platform has been purchased from Fletchers and collected from Halifax. Ryan Taylor will pursue installation by SSDC contractors (ID Verde).
- Tree felling has been completed. A brash pile near the top of the steps may be covering some primroses. We will investigate and rectify if required on the next working party.
- Management Plan – is still held up in the SSDC Graphics Department.
- Solitary Bee House – has been installed on the Horsebrook entrance gate by Peter and Phil.
- Website – now appears on a Browser search. It was suggested that members access and bookmark the site.
- Ryan Taylor and Keith Elder have circulated initial thoughts on a promotional campaign for Friends Groups. Marion has given feedback on this.
- Marion thanked Peter and Phil for their contributions outside the normal working parties.
- We have one Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award applicant. Samuel (plus mother Sara) will be working with us from the beginning of March through to the end of May. This will generally be on Sunday mornings, and members are invited to support this activity. Lyn raised the National Citizens' Scheme as a possible source of helpers and Phil will investigate further.

5) Financial Report

- Cash at bank is £48.83 (following purchase of pond platform for £354). Note that this is the majority of the grant from County Councillor Mark Sutton – which had to be spent by the end of the financial year.
- Phil has written to Brewood and Coven Council to request the grant agreed earlier this year.
- Phil has applied to South Staffordshire District Council for the annual grant of £250. Ryan Taylor has stated that the grant should be available, and suggested that we invite Chief Executive Dave Heywood to visit our site. An invitation accompanied the grant application.
- It is unclear whether a grant may be available via our County Councillor. Elections are pending and County Council budgets have been cut.

- Veolia have just launched their Community Grant scheme at a meeting attended by Phil. Our group and activities match the funding criteria. Grants of up to £1K are available, and applications for the first tranche must be made by the end of April. Veolia will decide on grants by the end of June.

Following discussion, it was decided to apply for a grant to purchase a leaf blower/ collector (plus spare battery) to facilitate Autumn/ Winter path clearance.

6) Working Party Sunday 2nd. April 2017 10:00 Orams Lane Entrance

- Snowdrop lifting and shifting
- Clear bushes to create a snowdrop glade
- Clear brash from primroses (see above)

7) Diary Dates

- 26/ 4/ 2017 – General Meeting
- 25/ 6/ 2017 – Pond Dipping
- 20/ 7/ 2017 – Wolgarston School Community Day
- 8/ 10/ 2017 – Fungi Foray

8) Other Business

- Glen stated that the local RSPB Group were impressed by the site on a recent visit.
- A wren's nest has been spotted.
- Glen thanked Carole for a litter pick prior the visit.
- Members of the RSPB want to participate in the pond dipping and Fungi Foray
- The site has been included in "Geo Caching" activity. The Chairman asked Glen to inform Ryan.
- Knotweed has been spotted on one of the previous sites. Glen will organise a full check and feedback to SSDC.

Philip Goodrich 01902 851207