

Friends of Cockleton Meadow

Committee Meeting notes (19/04/18)

Present: Roger Bartrum, Terry Nolan, Sue Waters and Holly Medland

Apologies: Martin Bilson, Jean Bartrum and Jane McKean

The notes from the previous meeting held on 21 March 2018 were agreed by all present.

Matters Arising

The Secretary has been advised that any funding comes from the BAE Systems Employees Charity Fund and not BAE Systems.

Update from the Treasurer

Jane was unable to attend due to work commitments but sent a written report.

Firstly - I am within touching distance of the bank account at last – it has been a tortuous business for sure! Our current balance will be £5!

Secondly – I have downloaded the Community Action Award entry form and am going to enter us, which would fund Holly's activities.

Thirdly – I would be very reluctant to ask GPC for grant funding at this point.

Therefore, I will also start applying for the funding from Awards for All and Island Roads again. Of course they will be more complicated and demand consultations, evaluations etc. while the good thing about the Community Action Award is that it rewards the project as is so far.

Update

- Roger and Jean have pegged down the matting, so the trip hazard has been avoided. It will need regular checking until it beds down. Anyone visiting the meadow should report any problem to Martin.
- Roger has not yet had time to construct the signage for the tools inside the shed.
- The dog bin has been installed by Island Roads but they have not repaired and moved the pedestrian gate as promised. This has been chased.
- Further wild flower seeds need sowing to enhance the meadow.
- The paths have been mowed by the Ranger, and further mowing will be carried out by volunteers.

Events at the Meadow

Holly provided costings for the first four events. She included the resources needed, the activity and the retailer to obtain supplies. The overall cost for the four events totals at £102.08, which averages to just over £25 per event. Sue offered to help at the first event which is Wednesday 30 May 2018 and will be a Teddy Bear's Picnic. Holly will design a poster and advertise on social media as well. The event will be free but donations towards the cost will be invited. A risk assessment will be required ahead of the event. Holly will design a consent form for photos. Holly has offered to initially fund the event, keeping receipts and hopes that the donations will cover it. Sue has access to a large quantity of cardboard which Holly will use. Everyone felt that by doing these events it will publicise the facility. Holly raised concerns about the pond being locked. Sue explained that the insurers are happy if the fence is taken down as long as appropriate signage and risk assessments are in place. Holly advised that the site is still difficult to find and that maybe additional signage would help.

Recommendations:

- (i) That the Parish Council funds an appropriate sign and once installed, the fence is taken down.**
- (ii) That the Parish Council contacts Island Roads/IW Council regarding signage for the site.**

Feedback from the Parish Council

The Parish Council was pleased to see the reports but still raised some issues – namely concerns about trip hazards, too many trees and the lack of public interest or volunteers. It was suggested that the notes from these committee meetings should be uploaded to the Parish Council website. It was agreed that:-

- The number of trees planted will remain an agenda item until Martin returns.

- The trip hazard has been sorted but will require a regular check and further work as required.
- Everyone agreed that the notes from the Committee meetings should be uploaded to both the Parish Council website and the Friends of Cockleton Meadow website for everyone to see.
- Sue has already chased the gate issue with Island Roads.
- The requirement for Green Gym to work on the site will be reduced now that most of the initial clearance work has been completed. Unless sufficient numbers of volunteers can be found, Green Gym will be required to rake the flower meadow once it is cut late summer. It is hoped that funding will be available by then so that the group does not have to ask the Parish Council.

Any Other Business

- A request has been made to install bee hives on the site. It was agreed by all present that it is not a suitable site due to the public access and safety.
- Roger suggested that the group makes an application to Waitrose to be considered for their monthly funding to local organisations.
- Holly requires a key to the unit and access to the code for the pond fencing.
- Roger has been approached by Age UK again about a “Men in Sheds” project at the site. This was turned down before due to the lack of facilities such as toilets and power. It was decided that Age UK need to write a proposal with costs and present it to the group before being considered by the Parish Council.
- Roger will arrange another volunteer session. He is hopeful of an evening session.
- Terry raised a query about cars parking inside the site as he heard that this was mentioned on the Facebook site. Members felt that it is safer for people bringing children onto the site to park inside the gate, even though the area was originally designed to assist disabled. There is no signage to this effect which may be necessary in the future. The matting will not prevent cars getting stuck if there is a lot of rain.

Date of Next meeting

Wednesday 6 June at 6.30pm at The Meadow-weather providing – if not in the café at Gurnard Pines (Fitness at Gurnard)

Meeting closed at 8pm.