

Friends of Cockleton Meadow

Committee Meeting notes (21/03/18)

Present: Martin Bilson, Terry Nolan, Sue Waters, Jane McKean, Jean Bartrum and Holly Medland

Apologies: Roger Bartrum

The notes from the previous meeting held on 7 February 2018 were agreed by all present.

Matters Arising

No response has been received from Alan Titchmarsh's office regarding an opening for the site – as Mayor of Cowes, Councillor Fuller is taking the lead on this. It was agreed to wait another month then consider other options.

Grow Wild Application

The application for funding for a sensory garden was not successful. An application via a volunteer who works at Vesta's is still being considered. It was suggested that once the group has its own bank account, an application to BAE Systems Employees Charity Account should be made, who offer small grants which could be used towards the running costs of the project. The aim is for the project to become self-funding.

Green Gym visit

30 volunteers from the Green Gym attended the meadow today and carried out:-

- Completion of the installation of the matting to assist disabled access to the picnic tables. – Some further pegging is required – Roger and Jean will continue with this over the next few weeks.
- The Storage Unit has been cleared and tool storage made from pallets – this requires signage which Roger will undertake.
- Two/Three garden gazebos have been donated and placed in the storage unit.
- A willow dome has been built in the pond area – this will need watering – Martin will send an email to the volunteers.
- An irrigation system was built to ensure a water supply to the two little ponds
- Brambles were removed from an apple tree which now requires pruning
- Lots of privet hedge cuttings were burnt in a bonfire. Martin delivered 50 letters to local residents ahead of the event and the Fire Brigade were informed. No complaints from residents were received. The Blackthorn cuttings need to be removed from the meadow and put behind the composting area and burnt in the future.
- The donated Mud Kitchen has been placed on flagstones and secured.

The next session will be at the end of the summer when the wild flower meadow is cut and will require raking. This may require funding from the Parish Council.

Update from the Treasurer

Jane advised that she is completing the application having been given the personal details from both Sue and Martin who will be signatories. She is hopeful that this will be complete by the next meeting. A £5 cheque donation will be used to open the account.

Composting

Following complaints from the Parish Council the signs on the composting area have been removed. After much discussion about the requirement for Planning permission and a licence, the group decided that the composting area is only for the grass cuttings generated on site which can be used to enhance the soil on the raised beds.

Notes for the Parish Council

Following a request, it was agreed that notes from all the committee meetings should be shared with the Parish Council

Next Steps

It was decided by all present that no major expenditure should be considered this year, but the site should be enjoyed by more people.

Further local promotion is required – Holly will become an administrator of the Facebook Page and talk to Ellis about enhancing the website. The poster competition arranged by Martin received no take up.

Holly suggested contacting local groups about using the site – such as the Art Group, photography groups, Craft groups, Yoga, the Gurnard Toddler Group and small scale competitions – such as pumpkin carving and scarecrows.

Other ideas were raised such as an Easter Egg hunt, a Teddy Bears Picnic. Pond Dipping (once the tadpoles have hatched), storytelling, summer activity sessions and bug hunting. Holly will compile a list and costs and bring back to the next meeting.

Any other Business

- Martin will be away from the end of March for two months. Roger has agreed to co-ordinate in Martin's absence.
- Jo Cox Memorial Picnic – this will be held on Saturday 23 June 2018 at 12 noon. Martin will advise the organisers.
- The pedestrian gate will be moved and improved by Island Roads but no date has yet been received. Sue will ask if another post could be installed by them at the same time as they install the dog waste bin for a secure donations box.

Date of Next meeting

Thursday 19 April at 6.30pm in the café at Gurnard Pines (Fitness at Gurnard)

Meeting closed at 8 pm.