

The notes from the meeting of the Friends of Cockleton Meadow Committee meeting held at Doreen and Trevor Gant's home, on Tuesday 3 October 2017 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Martin Bilson (Chair), Steve Benstead, Terry Benstead, Sue Waters, Ellis Gant, Doreen Gant, Councillor Jean Bartrum and Roger Bartrum

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fuller and McKean. Sue advised that Councillor Fuller has stepped down from the committee due to his additional commitments as Cowes Town Council Mayor. He does however wish to remain a friend.

2 TESCO FUNDING

The treasurer provided an update showing that most of the project had now been completed and paid for. There is a balance of £1400 to spend. It was agreed that further grass matting would be purchased to improve access to the picnic tables for disabled and buggies, plus a shelter for the forest school area. Any funds left can be used to purchase pond dipping equipment and bug boxes.

3 FUNDING

This will be carried over to the next meeting. Gift to Nature have been asked to break down the cost of applying for funding and ranger duties.

4 REGULAR VOLUNTEERING WORK PARTIES

Roger has offered to join the mowing rota together with Ady. Martin will get another five keys cut so that regular volunteers can keep one. Sue will keep a log of keys. An apple tree pruning event will be the next maintenance required once Martin returns from holiday. Sue to send an email to Ady inviting him to become a member of the friends so that he can have a key. A key was given to Ellis so he can continue work for Gurnard in Bloom.

5 ENCROACHMENT OF THE BOUNDY FENCE

This has been reported to the Parish Council who will work with the landlords (Isle of Wight Council) to take any appropriate action.

6 USE OF FIREPIT/BBQ AREA

As requested by the Parish Council, the sign has been removed. All present felt that this increases the risk to the Parish Council if anyone gets injured. Sue will discuss with the Isle of Wight Council how they risk assess etc., the use of BBQ's at Fort Victoria.

7 LOCATION OF BIRD, BAT AND INSECT BOXES

Terry and Steve showed a completed map (picture taken by a drone) and they have used stickers to identify all the different types of wildlife homes which have been installed. This will be mounted onto a board and kept in the unit.

8 THE FUTURE

Several ideas were discussed such as a sensory garden, bat event and a butterfly garden. Funding needs to be investigated. Roger provided a link to Fields in Trust and suggested holding a "Having a Field Day".

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Mindful of costs, the next committee meeting will be held on Monday 6 November 2017 at 6.30 at the Chairman's home.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm