

## Friends of Cockleton Meadow

Committee Meeting notes (4/12/17)

**Present:** Martin Bilson, Steve and Terri Benstead, Jean and Roger Bartrum, Sue Waters, Jane McKean

**Apologies:** Ellis Gant, Terry Nolan

**Matters arising from last meeting** – still need confirmation of the ownership of boundary fence. Currently there is no fence between the forest school area and the old school site, what, if any, were the arrangements for the boundary?(JM to ask IWC)

Regarding the existing hole (above the privet hedge) JB suggested blocking the hole with a pallet – MB to address this.

Discussion continued around creating a natural border (hedging or trees for future coppicing for example) possibly with the help of the Nick Webb and the Wildlife Warriors when they are on the site to mend the gate to the firepit area.

- General discussion about a grand opening in the Spring, possibly inviting Alan Titchmarsh to do the honours (remembering that he opened the Millenium Pond) JB has contact details.
- Fund raising – JM to attend Bid Writing workshop in January. It was thought that if more young people were to use the site, grants could be applied for from Lottery, Children in Need etc. To this end the Island's Learning Zone and Forest School will be approached and informed of the facilities and education opportunities.
- JB suggested the installation of a Sensory Garden, which was discussed with reference to size and position on the site. A possible site could be next to the pond area which is overgrown. This could be a suitable project for Green Gym's Spring visit. JM to request £50 for their visit from GPC.
- SB mentioned the fact that people are still parking in front of the field gate. MB has put notes on windscreens otherwise, no obvious solution.
- JB knows a Botanist who has offered to identify/name the trees in the orchard.
- Firepit signs – have been sanctioned by the Insurance Company
- Apple Juice – MB reported that it has nearly all gone, and that when it has all been sold and he has his £90 outlay there will be a small profit for our petty cash.
- The meeting discussed regular working party dates – initially the first Sunday in the month, 10.30 -12.30ish. One person (key holder ) will take responsibility for allocating jobs etc.
- Friends Registration form – all committee members and volunteers should complete and sign forms, SW to send to committee.
- FOCM Volunteers list needs to be updated, with current details if they wish to continue to be involved and information sent to them about impending AGM and Working Party dates.
- AGM - this has been booked for Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 6.30-8.30pm in the Garden Room of All Saints Church. There needs to be 14 days notice of the AGM in order for people to suggest changes in the Constitution, and there needs to be a quorum of 8 people present.
- AOB – RB has been keeping the compost bins replenished. Discussion included possible income generation through composting scheme and the numbering of bins so that members of the public wishing to compost their garden waste will be asked to leave it in a sorting area to ensure that there is no Japanese Knotweed present. However, it was agreed that advice will be taken from Footprint Trust before proceeding with any composting scheme involving members of the public.
  
- Next meeting - AGM