

Friends of Cockleton Meadow

Committee Meeting notes (06/06/18)

Present: Martin Bilson (Chair), Terry Nolan, Jane McKean, Sue Waters and Holly Medland

Apologies: Roger and Jean Bartrum

The notes from the previous meeting held on 19 April 2018 were agreed by all present.

Matters Arising

- a. We have not yet applied for funding from BAE Systems Employees Charity fund as awaiting new Bank Account.
- b. Pond sign – wording was agreed as “**Access only when supervised by a responsible adult**”. This wording will be suggested to the Parish Council and the insurers. The Parish Council has agreed to fund the sign once the wording has been agreed by all. It was also suggested that the pond area should be a “dog free” zone, therefore this wording should be incorporated in the same sign.
- c. Still awaiting cost of brown tourist sign from Island Roads, but have heard informally it could be as much as £700.
- d. Sue explained that planning permission is required for any sign exceeding 0.3 square metres. It was agreed to cost a sign that would not require planning permission. **Martin will action.**
- e. Martin will prepare a formal response to the Parish Council regarding the complaint about too many trees on site. He explained that a mixture of trees had been planted on the site, expecting 25% of them to die through lack of water. An arboretum has been planted with the larger trees and hedgerow trees planted elsewhere. Crab apple trees have been planted in the orchard. Some trees will be transplanted if necessary. Unless there are large gaps when trees die, no further planting is anticipated.
- f. Pegging of the matting – the problem has been the length of the pegs with the gravel bed just below the surface of the grass. Martin has reduced the length of some of the pegs and this has been successful. As the matting is walked on and the grass grows through it is will gradually “bed down”. All will continue to monitor and advise Martin/Roger if they see any potential trip hazards.

Update from the Treasurer

Jane advised that following problems with the Lloyds Bank application, it was decided to now apply to HSBC. Martin and Sue have both started the verification process, so we hopeful that the bank account will be operational by the end of the month.

A Community Action Award has been applied for – awaiting a response to see if the project has been successful.

Following a wonderful family evening at the meadow, Jane has received another donation of £50 for the project. This will be used to part fund the events being run by Holly.

Update from the Chairman and Vice- Chairman

Roger was unable to attend the meeting but sent a written report - As regards Cockleton Meadow during Martin's absence. I have had a couple of mowing sessions and Ady has had two or three mowing/stripping sessions. We have just about managed to keep on top of the mowing although it is really growing at a pace at the moment. I've kept an eye on the matting and pegged down a few problem areas. We advertised a Wild Seed sowing morning on Facebook and had a small group of people who came down on 6th May to help with this. Martin was back in time for the Teddy Bear's Picnic which we attended and was excellent and well documented. Well done Holly! Nothing more to report.

Having been away for a while, Martin was pleased that the project was in safe hands. He has completed a “pond dipping” session with his family and found four newts. He is having a “volunteer” session on Friday this week to mow and trim the site. He is considering another volunteer session on Sunday dependant on

how much is achieved on Friday. Martin has applied for resources for the "Jo Cox" picnic on Saturday 23 June 2018. He will liaise with Holly regarding publicising the event.

Events at the Meadow

Everyone congratulated Holly on the success of the Teddy Bear's Picnic event which attracted between 50 and 60 people, and the very full report of the day, which will be sent to the Parish Council. The porta potty was well appreciated and should be used for future events. Most people had not been to the site before and having attended the event will definitely attend again. Although the donations towards resources were disappointing and the event did not break even, it was a great marketing exercise to increase the footfall to the site. Holly also advised that a school is interested in using the site for a Forest School event.

For the next three events during the summer school holidays it was agreed:-

The marketing will include a page in the Gurnard News.

All marketing will mention that donations are required to fund future events.

Holly has sent an article to the County Press for their Holiday News.

Volunteer Registration Form

Sue advised that as the project is under the Parish Council, the volunteer contact details are subject to the new General Data Protection Regulations. Most volunteers have responded with a positive consent but not all.

The volunteer registration form which is used for people working on the site needs to be amended to include the privacy notice and positive consent. It was agreed that for safety the forms need to be kept on site, but they need to be in a lockable box and the key stored in a key safe. Sue will draft a privacy notice and amend the form for the next meeting.

Any Other Business

- a Gurnard Primary School has approached Sue about using the site for a STEM session (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) on Friday 15 June 2018 for the year four children. They will walk to site, use the toilets at Gurnard Pines if necessary, and provide their own Risk Assessment and Insurance. Sue is meeting with the teacher ahead of the event to provide a key to the storage unit for them to use the resources (pond dipping nets, bug boxes etc.) and provide the code to pond fencing. As both Martin and Sue are away on the mainland at the time of the visit, Jane agreed to be an emergency contact for the day.
- b Martin advised that a Green Gym session would be needed to rake the meadow at the end of the summer season once it has been cut. As there is no Parish Council funding available, it is hoped that this can be funded from another source.
- c Sue has been advised today that the cable securing the picnic tables has been pulled out and is now visible and a trip hazard. Martin will ask Nick the Ranger from Gift to Nature to re-bury the cable and it was decided to try and find another method of securing them.
- d Roger has advised that due to his other commitments, he wishes to stand down as Deputy Chair. In the absence of any other volunteers for the post, it was agreed to trail running the project without a Deputy Chair, but Sue agreed to chair any meetings in Martin's absence.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18 July 2018 at 6.30pm at the Meadow but at Gurnard Pines if wet.

The meeting closed at 8pm.