

Friends of Rowley Hills

Committee Meeting

Brewers Fayre, Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, B69 2BH

Monday 11th May 2015 at 19.30pm

Attendees:

Committee Members: Antony Wilkinson (AW), Bob Duncan (BD), Jane Tavener (JT), Chair: Jayne Wilkinson (JW), Secretary: Josie Cook (JC), Julie Buttery (JB), Vice Chair: Mike Poulton (MP), Ray Sadler (RS),

Wildlife Trust: Doug Barber, (DB) Paul Stephenson (PS)

1. Apologies:

Dave Price (DP), Simon Atkinson (SA).

2. Minutes of last meeting/Matters arising

Minutes were adopted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Actions

4.4.2 – Geological Date will now take place on 14th December 2015.

4.5.1 – To review applying for funding from the Co-operative.

4. Items for Discussion

Items	Description	Action
4.1.	Sandwell Access Forum MP attended the latest meeting and has been invited to attend on a regular basis. He reported back the following. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Right of Way (ROW) markers are to go ahead. It is unlikely that they will be erected before the end of summer but they will ask us where we want them located.• There are many natural paths across the area but they are not all ROW's.• There is no money set aside for paths.• They may be able to assist us in establishing who owns what land through land registry.• All planning applications/developments are usually rejected by Sandwell Council as the land is designated Open Space. (It was mentioned that the Golf Course is planning to sell off some of their land which is earmarked for housing development.• Health Walks – John Scott will liaise with DP.• Richard Preston, Canals & Rivers Trust will look into the state of the footpaths in the Netherton Tunnel.	MP / DP

Action: MP to attend meetings and to update the group. DP to arrange Health Walks with John Scott.

- 4.2. FORH Logo** **JT**
- Two options of the logos were put forward for discussion.
1. New circular coloured logo – versions 1 & 2.
 2. Old square black and white logos – versions 3 – 5.
- Version 1 was adopted as the new logo.
- Action:** JT to produce variations of the new logo.
- 4.3 Leaflets** **DB / Joe Peacock**
- The current draft version was looked at. MP pointed out that he had been ‘credited’ with all of the photos but in fact he was actually in one. DB suggested that we should also include our Facebook and twitter page details.
- It was agreed that the Friends details should appear ahead of The Wildlife Trust details. The new logo was to be added and also acknowledgment of the Big Local Partnership and their logos added.
- Action:** DB to pass details onto Joe Peacock for updating.
- 4.4 New Membership** **JC**
- Two membership applications had been received. Membership was approved for both.
- Action:** JC to update membership records.
- 4.5 Events**
- 4.5.1 Titford Boat Rally, 16th-17th May 2015** **JW / JC**
- SA said that he may be able to provide a ‘Wildlife Trust Recruiter’ to help man the event and to let him know what hours we were doing.
- Action:** JW / JC to liaise with Wildlife Trust
- 4.6 Area Champions** **All**
- JC suggested that we had Area Champions to keep a ‘watchful eye’ on areas within the Rowley Hills. This would spread the load and not leave it all too any one person to keep track of what was going on. They would then report back to the Committee.
- The following areas were identified and Champions agreed.
- Portway Hill – MP
 - Turners Hill – Wildlife Trust & Geological Society
 - Bury Hill – JC
 - Masseys Bank – Vacant
 - Darbys Hill – JB / AW / JW
- Action:** **All** – Masseys Bank – volunteer required
- 4.7 Website – Management Structure** **JT**
- JW suggested that we have a brief outline of the Committee with a photo to give a more personal/friendly face of the Committee to the members. This was agreed in principal and it was suggested that we had a group photo taken – possibly on the cairn.
- Action:** JW to arrange.

- 4.8 Wildlife Trust Donation – proposed contribution** **JC**
- As part of our fundraising, and wanting to support the Wildlife Trust in purchasing additional land, it was discussed about setting a percentage of the money raised aside to give to the Wildlife Trust at the end of each financial year. An additional amount could be agreed at the AGM if we had had a successful year. PS stated that as it was early days that we should wait and see how things go. It was agreed in principle but a future discussions would need to take place to see how it would work in practice.
- Action:** JC to add to a future agenda for discussion.
- 4.9 Funding – Awards for All** **JW / MP
/ JC / DP**
- PS asked if we had a change to look at the draft proposal as the start date has been entered as 01/09/15 and it takes about 4 months to be processed. It was agreed that the proposal would be looked at further and that the missing details would be sent to SA.
- Action:** JW / MP / JC / DP
- 5. Any Other Business**
- 5.1 VE Day Celebration – lighting of beacon on Masseys Bank (Millennium Point)**
- JW reported that she had videoed/photo'd the lighting of the beacon and that she had uploaded it to our Facebook page. Everyone is welcome to use them. She relayed the events of the evening.
- 5.2 Working on Nature Reserve** **DB**
- BD asked when could begin working on the nature reserve again. PS replied that ideally it needed spraying but it was not the right time of the year.
- Action:** DB to organised volunteer dates.
- 5.3 Name – ‘Friends of...’** **JT / JC /
All**
- JC reminded everyone that the name of the group is ‘Friends of...’ and not ‘The Friends of...’ and that we should start as we mean to go on. It may not seem important but it effects where you appear in lists etc. and that were more likely to be found in a group starting ‘F’ than a list starting ‘The’.
- Action:** JT – website, email account, JC – documents, All.
- 5.4 General Meeting – Agenda** **All**
- JC reminded everyone that there was no agenda for the next meeting. It will be a general ‘greet and meet’ anyone that turns up. ‘Posters’ would be sent to relevant Committee Members for displaying. She asked that she be notified of where they had been placed so we could monitor there effectiveness.
- Action:** JC - send out posters to Committee Members, All – to arrange there display and report back.
- 5.5 Streetlife**
- JC reported that she had started a post on the proposed VE Day celebrations that had been taken over by some other members with comments that had nothing to do with the original thread. She doesn't know what triggered the removal but ‘Streetlife’ notified her that they were

removing some of the threads and when a further comment was made in regards to the removed threads it had the result of more people viewing it and commenting.

6. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 6th July 2015