



Friends of Rowley Hills

Minutes of Committee Meeting Saturday 14th May 2016 at 10.30am Oakham Library, Poplar Rise, Tividale, Oldbury, B69 1RD.

Chair JW opened meeting 10.40am.

Present

Jayne Wilkinson (JW) – Mike Poulton (MP) – Julie Buttery (JB) – Lynn Poulton (LP) – Jane Tavener (JT) – Bob Duncan (BD) – Antony Wilkinson (AW)

Apologies

Angela Hardy (AH), Douglas Barber BBCWT (DB), Simon Atkinson BBCWT (SA).
Ray Sadler (RS) – has not responded to emails etc. and has failed to turn up to the previous three meetings without sending an apology, Action, Committee agreed to contact Ray Sadler to see if he still wished to hold a position on committee.

Minutes from previous meeting Monday 14th March 2016 were signed off by the Chair JW.

Membership

JT has automated the membership process and established protocol regarding interest in the group. JT has also received and updated the membership list from JC previous Secretary. Both Maria Crompton and Christopher Tranter have responded to JT to establish their membership status as individual members, membership status reflected the clarification given as individuals not representative of an organisation. Declaration of interest has been added to the membership process regards meetings to ensure all declarations of interest are minuted, members with declarations of interest should refrain from voting if an interest is declared on a topic being discussed that requires a vote agreement.

Treasurers Report

Josie Cook has been removed from bank as signatory. JB is confirmed signatory and recipient of bank statements to home address on behalf of the group. Confirmation has been received from bank for both amendments.

Summary of accounts - Available to members on request. JW to contact Helen Truman at GM2LF, to request if the balance can be used to purchase more promotional materials. MP to establish costs for the purchase of banner pens.

5.2. Expenses – cheque given to JT for cost of banners.

Awards for All

Progress Pending update due to absence from BBCWT

MP reported that the AFA hedge planting event that the Wildlife Trust had set up with pupils at St Michael's Church of England High School at Portway Farm had been cancelled by the school. It is hoped that an alternative arrangement can be made. The hedge planting was completed by AFA volunteers.

MP to establish costs for the following items to be purchased – 50 x gloves / 5 x protective gauntlets / loppers / bow saws and replacement blades / long tined rake / 5 x hard hats with a decent expiration date / folding pruning saws / 1st aid kit x 2 / tarpaulin sheet / anti-bacterial hand wash / head torches / 10 x whistles.

Programme of events for 2016

still in discussion.

Website Update

JT is maintaining up to date. The committee thanked her for this. She provided the following figures:

2015

Website total visitors: **1,251**

Website total views: **7,490**

2016

Website total visitors: **1,722**

Website total views: **9,558**

2017

Website visitors so far: **382**

Website views so far: **1,976**

Past 12 months

Average views per month during this period: **661**

Average visitors per month during this period: **131**

Social media

Twitter followers 19th March 2017: **187**

Facebook likes 19th March 2017: **110**

Membership

Number of members 19th March 2017: **79**

Fundraising

JW establishing links into Langley Park via Sunish (SMBC) and Friends of Langley Park to use their open space for car boot sales. We could use FORH funds to produce notelets to sell and Christmas cards. We have a large database of photographs that can be used.

Any other business

It was agreed that committee meetings would be twice per year – one at the beginning of the year to discuss programme and the second towards the middle of the year. Sub committees could be established for other projects. Events will be arranged as general meetings for members as these are of more interest to the membership. Foundations gained to start networking and has met objections and aims.

Congratulations were given to both Bob Duncan and Jane Tavener for passing their first aid courses, and thanks to the Wildlife Trust for providing this course. Their qualification is for three years.

MP advised that Sandwell Council had installed two public right of way finger posts. One near the BP garage on Wolverhampton Road and the other near the top of Portway Hill.

JW to seek funding opportunities for strimmer and hi-vis vests.

JT confirmed that a data search at Ecorecord had turned up three confirmed records for Black Redstart on the Portway Hill site, in 2002, 2013 and 2014, and it is believed that Black Redstarts are likely to have bred here in at least two of these years (2002 and 2013). In view of this MP to establish with Chris Parry if anyone at the Wildlife Trust had seen the ecological report carried out on the Edwin Richards Quarry site and if they were aware that Black Redstarts may have previously bred on Rowley Hills. As the quarry provides suitable habitat for Black Redstarts the committee would like to know if a survey for this species was carried out at the appropriate time of year.

MP advised that in the interest of not upsetting residents living in View Point we should start using the West Avenue/Speakers Close entrance to View Point Open Space.

Next meeting is the AGM and has been set for Saturday 4th June 2016 2pm – Oakham Library, Poplar Rise, Tividale, Oldbury, B69 1RD.