

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF LINSLADE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 11 ALWINS FIELD

Present: John Creasey (Acting Chair), Dave Booth, Sue Phillips, Malcolm Chaney, Brenda Harvey, Magdalena Cosgrave, Clive Palmer, Rosie Palmer, Janet Wood, Judith Knight, Jim Oliver, Esther Clarke, Steve Halton, Ken Barry

1. 2018 AGM

The preferred venue is the Forster Institute and Judith agreed to check its availability. Mentmore Pavilion was also suggested with the possibility that we could get a discount as we are a voluntary group. Magdalena agreed to check. Steve Halton agreed to speak. The date will be end of March or beginning of April.

2. THE WAY FORWARD

- a. Deterring vandalism was discussed following the recent unfortunate incident with the memorial bench. CCTV is expensive and intrusive and CBC do not normally use except in fly-tipping hotspots. People walking around is a good deterrent but most incidents seem to happen after dark. Steve agreed to investigate the possibility of cameras connected to an App. We also need more notices asking members of the public to report anything suspicious to the Greensand Trust or the police depending on the seriousness of the incident.
- b. More committee members are needed and it was agreed that before or when issuing notice of the AGM we should issue an ultimatum to the members that the Friends cannot continue to function if a chair or secretary cannot be found. Magdalena kindly offered to help with the secretarial post and was formally co-opted onto the committee, and then formally nominated as Secretary.

3. GREEN FLAG AWARD 2018

Steve pointed out that applications need to be in by 31 January and we are due to have a full visit by the judges next year. Steve agreed to obtain the forms and complete in liaison with the committee. We have now received our Britain in Bloom certificate. Dave agreed to photocopy and put on the noticeboard. Steve also mentioned that CBC are looking into giving the Woods Local Nature Reserve status. This is a lengthy process involving solicitors and could take a couple of years. However the status will confer better protection and help with funding. Rosie suggested that we enter the Woods in the Woodland section of Anglia in Bloom and she will obtain the relevant application forms.

4. LOSS OF WILDLIFE

Dave was concerned about loss of biodiversity in the Woods and suggested that we need an action plan to counteract this. He considered that the Woods could be developing more as a park for people rather than as a Nature Reserve. It was generally agreed that there could be many reasons for the variation in wildlife. Steve pointed out that there was no money available to make major changes and that any perceived loss could be a matter of natural progression. Assurances were given that wildlife would continue to be a major priority in the

management of the Woods and that we would always put wildlife first. Clive suggested that if the planning application for housing on land adjacent to the Woods is rejected, an appeal could be raised for the land to be purchased and added to the Woods as a wildlife meadow. He knew of people living nearby who would be happy to contribute.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Malcolm reported that we have £1,508.40 in the bank plus £394 to be paid by the hedgelayner Paul Blissett and £100 from Friends of Tiddenfoot for stakes. The hedgelaying is to be extended, and payment will be required for a new bench.

6. TESCO BAGS OF HELP GROUNDWORK FOR MUDDY AREAS

Malcolm is to apply for funding for £4000 to be spent on hardcore or similar materials (concrete, plastic?) or ask Arnold Whites for woodchip from the adjoining bio plantation, but whatever is used transport will be a problem. The 3 muddy areas in need of hardcore are 5 Ways, near Milebush and near the horses' field. Boardwalks might be a possibility but we will need to leave space for vehicles. John agreed to make further enquiries.

7. OTHER MATTERS

Brenda suggested that notices should be placed in the old Wood to ask people to keep dogs off the bluebells. It was thought that dogs probably did less harm to the bluebells than people, but John will see what can be done.

More volunteers are required and it was suggested that working parties could be advertised to 6th formers in local schools.