

The Friends of Horton Country Park

Minutes for the meeting held on the

Present

Alan Cheshire, Anne Cheshire, Brendan Kilby, Will Thompson, Catherine Thompson, Ian Tilbury, Terry Summerfield, Stewart Cocker.

Apologies

Ray & Rosemary Eyres

Matters Arising

Non

Chairman's AGM Report

This was the AGM meeting BK addressed the group giving a synopsis of 2012/13, mentioning:-

- The talk and recruitment event kindly sponsored by Horton Park Country Club which managed to recruit some new volunteers who now assist with biological recording.
- BK thanked the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project and Epsom & Ewell Countryside Team for the progress being made with woodland management.
- Mention was also made of the purchase of fleeces with a Friends logo that has allowed the Friends to achieve a recognisable presence on site.
- The story of Horton Light Railway continues to be of interest and several talks were given over the year with donations made to the Friends.
- BK emphasised the progress made in managing the Orchards with the recent involvement of the London Orchard Trust and the planting of 8 apple trees in February.
- Work to create wetland habitat at the Southern end of the Country Park connected with surface water drainage for the re-development of West Park Hospital commenced in Late March 2013.
- A litter pick was held around Meadow Pond on the 24th February 2013 which was deemed a great success following BK's unexpected dunking, Friend's moral is now very high!

Treasurer's Report

TS gave his report BK asked if the sentence reporting volunteer numbers could be removed as it was deemed not appropriate as part of the Treasure's Reort.

Membership Secretaries Report

AC gave her report stating that there were now 37 members with 4 new members recruited at the 'Living Woodlands' event in October 2012. Reminder letters for subs have been sent out and there was agreement that a summer membership drive event would be held on site.

Woodland Management

SC reported on the substantial progress made during winter 2012/13 with volunteers planting approx. 1300 young hazel trees in Pond Wood, Sherwood Grove, Four Acre Wood and Hendon Grove all protected by approx. 1km of temporary deer fencing erected by volunteers.

Orchard Management

As reported above

Grassland Management

Nothing reported

Hedgerow Management

Nothing reported

Pond/Stream Management

BK read out the Lambert's pond restoration project proposal from the Lower Mole Project. SC outlined progress with the wetland creation scheme as described above. SC informed that the Lower Mole Project have been tasked with removing the vandalised dipping platform at 'Meadow Pond' and constructing a fence to stop dogs entering the pond.

Site Interpretation

SC informed about the new 'Living Woodlands' information panel/lectern planned for the edge of Four Acre Wood and another lectern and information panel for the bat roost. The lecturns are being constructed by a Lower Mole project volunteer.

West Park Development news

As described above

Visitor management/Site security

SC informed that the pot holes in the car park had recently been filled in.

Species sightings

SC informed that the badger set near the piggery was very active again this spring which was confirmed by IT.

AOB

SC informed that he had recently had a meeting with Richard Haygarth who owns the golf course lease to discuss drainage and that he had expressed interest in possibly assisting with the Lambert's Pond Project.
SC informed of a report he has heard about more flooding in Clarendon Park rumoured to be coming from the Country Park.
BK made the committee aware about the possibility of seeking funding from the Community Foundation for Surrey.

Next meeting

Tuesday 4th June 2013 7.30 p.m. at West Park Farmhouse