



The Friends of Horton Country Park

Minutes for the meeting held on the 3rd June 2014

Present

Anne Cheshire, Alan Cheshire, Terry Summerfield, Sarah Clift

Apologies

Brendan Kilby, Catherine Thompson, Will Thompson.

Matters Arising

Sarah informed the group that unfortunately, due to work commitments and family issues, Brendan would not be able to fulfil his role as Chairman of the group for the foreseeable future and she would be taking on his current commitments for the group.

Membership

Anne confirmed that Keith Partridge (Chair of the West Ewell and Ruxley Residents' Association) was happy to put some FoHCP membership leaflets in with the next mail out of their newsletter.

ACTION- Anne to check with him how many he would need and by when.

Epsom Common Day is being held on Sun 20th July from 11 am – 4 pm. The Friends of HCP can have a stand and it was agreed that it would be a good opportunity to promote the group and raise membership. **ACTION** - If you are interested in being part of a rota to man the display, please let Sarah know.

Woodland Management

The tenax fencing of Lambert's wood has been completed. Richard Manners has extracted most of the timber and it is being stored in the Piggery.

We have been having some issues with vandalism to the fencing so please report any you may find on your walk around HCP.

(Countryside Team Office – 01372 745224)

Lower Mole Project volunteers have been carrying out a butterfly survey of Castle Hill and Butcher's grove. It has been noted that there could be a more evenly spaced stages of growth amongst the cants. We are going to check the dates each cant is next planned to be coppiced to see if we can resolve this problem. We will talk to the coppice workers to see if any of the cants are at a stage that would be useful to them already. If so, we could bring forward some areas to be coppiced sooner to create more stages of growth, which should be beneficial for woodland butterflies and other wildlife.

Orchard Management

It is planned to have more tasks this winter which Sarah will inform the group

about nearer the time, perhaps with a visit from the London Orchard Project staff to give us a refresher on pruning techniques.

The veteran tree works that will be planned this winter will take on works to the pears in Lambert's Orchard and the old Bramleys in Longrove Orchard.

Grassland Management

Nothing to report.

Hedgerow Management

The work carried out this winter has been successful and the hedges have leafed up nicely.

Pond/Stream Management

The SITA bid was unsuccessful which included work to Pond Wood Pond.

Site Interpretation

New bridleway signs have been put in by The Lower Mole Project volunteers along with signage for the Round the Borough Hike and Bike Route.

West Park Development news

It was agreed that a letter should be sent from the Friends to Frances Rutter and the Developer to enquire as to what is holding up works to complete the balancing ponds and wetland along the southern boundary of HCP and the West park Development.

Visitor management/Site security

People riding motor bikes have been witnessed at the northern end of HCP and someone had also reported someone shooting in the park. Please report anything like this to the police. Emergency – 999, Non-emergency – 101. Also report it to the Rangers – 07803 831199. Even if the police can't attend, all reports help to build up a picture of when and where anti-social behaviour is happening to allow them to put in useful patrols.

Species sightings

A cuckoo was heard on the bird event run by the Surbiton and District Bird Watching Club. Pete has been surveying Field Pond for Great Crested Newts and with a maximum count of 9.

AOB

Our volunteer who was regularly carrying out the butterfly transect has not been able to continue. If anyone is interested, please let Sarah know. All training will be given so no experience necessary.

Next meeting

Due to holidays in August it was agreed that the next meeting would be Tues 2nd September and then every other month from then.