
The Friends of Horton Country Park

Minutes for the meeting held on the 3rd December 2013

Present

Brendan Kilby, Ian Tilbury, Stewart Cocker, Terry Summerfield

Apologies

Ray & Rosemary Eyres, Will Thompson, Catherine Thompson, Alan Cheshire, Anne Cheshire.

Matters Arising

- SC to correct the Oct 2013 mins re Surbiton and District Bird Watcher's Event.
- BK purchasing roller blind displays this Autumn.

Treasurer's Report

TS reported that all cheques were paid in and that the Lower Mole Countryside Management project had been paid £216 as a contribution to the costs of de-silting Lambert's Orchard Pond.

Membership Secretaries Report

BK expressed a wish that the FOHCP should put a programme of summer walks together for 2014.

SC informed about Epsom Common Day celebrating 40 years of the Epsom Common Association on 20th July 2014. Attendance discussed and SC explained that an invite from the ECA was likely.

Woodland Management

SC gave an update on works due to start in Januray 2013/14

Orchard Management. SC gave an update describing the recent Autumn volunteers task at Long grove Orchard.

IT reported on his discovery of a patch in Long Grove Orchard where fireworks had been let off.

Grassland Management

SC gave update, reporting that as planned the edge of Greenman Stream had been flailed in the meadow to encourage grasses to grow near the water edge as part of the scheme to create a habitat suitable for the release of Water Voles in the future.

Hedgerow Management

SC informed that the Countryside Team volunteers would be hedge laying opposite Four Acre Wood in December.

Pond/Stream Management

SC updated on Nobel Park balancing ponds and wetland creation project. SC explained that as far as he was aware there were negotiations in progress between EEBC and the developer's with regard to the legal permissions required for the construction of the ponds/wetland on EEBC property and that whilst the lack of progress is concerning and frustrating to witness a letter to EBC from the Friends was unlikely to have an effect at this stage. BK agreed to defer and review at the next meeting in February 2014.

Sc informed that the Lower Mole Project were putting in a SITA bid to restore five ponds in the the Borough and that Pond Wood Pond had been chosen in HCP. The work would be to de-silt the pond and remove Reed Mace which is choking the pond

Site Interpretation

SC explained that the Bat lectern has been installed opposite the Bat Roost as planned.

General view that the Information Centre needs a Spring Clean.

West Park Development news

SC explained see above

Visitor management/Site security

Nothing to Report

Species sightings

Nothing to report.

AOB

SC explained that the whole of the public open space within the Country Park had been confirmed as Site of Nature Conservation Importance SNCI by the Local Site Committee in October. The designation is noted on the local plan and amalgamates two former separate SNC on the Country park. The recent survey by Pete Howarth of the Countryside Team confirmed that areas excluded previously were of SNCI quality.

Next meeting

Tuesday 4th February 2014 7.30 p.m. at West Park Farmhouse