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## **The Friends of Horton Country Park**

### Minutes for the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013

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#### **Present**

Alan Cheshire, Anne Cheshire, Brendan Kilby, Will Thompson, Catherine Thompson, Rosemary Eyres, Ian Tilbury, Sarah Clift.

#### **Apologies**

Terry Summerfield, Ray Eyres, Pat Lowe.

#### **Matters Arising**

The newsletter is nearly complete.

#### **Woodland Management**

The veteran tree work will commence week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
The coppicing work in Hendon grove, Sherwood Grove and Pond Wood has been completed by a combination of local contractors and volunteers. These areas will be planted up with hazel and fenced off from 21<sup>st</sup> Feb.  
Brendan noted that the fencing around Sherwood grove, already in-situ, has been damaged. Please can all friends keep a watching brief over the condition of the fencing surrounding all the woodlands, to ensure no deer can get in.

#### **Orchard Management**

The 3 workshops so far have been very successful. 2 sessions have been carried out in Longrove Orchard and 1 in Lambert's Orchard. Most of the trees have had the weight reduced by 20% with some detailed pruning as well. There were a few apple trees and all the pears that were not worked on due to their size. A contractor will have to be employed to reduce the weight of these. Brendan suggested that the Friends could contribute some funds towards the cost of this.

**The planting workshop will be held on Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Feb** and a site interpretation notice will be put up before this to explain what we are doing and to encourage visitors/residents to help look after these trees. A letter will also be sent to the houses bordering the orchards.

#### **Grassland Management**

Nothing to report

#### **Hedgerow Management**

The Countryside Team Volunteer tasks went well before Christmas, working on the section of hedge opposite Four Acre Wood. The Surrey Countryside Management Projects' apprentices will be carrying on along this section, laying the hedge, this week.

### **Pond/Stream Management**

Brendan has noted that with the water level rising, quite a lot of litter has been flushed up to the surface. Therefore it was decided to have a litter pick on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb** to try and remove it while we can. **Please meet at 10 am at the Golf Club car park.**

### **Site Interpretation**

The bench that was made at the Living Woodlands Fayre by the chainsaw sculptor is now in-situ at Four Acre Wood. There will be an interpretation panel being installed here soon as well, which will explain coppicing and the management of the woodlands.

### **West Park Development news**

Nothing to report

### **Visitor management/Site security**

The police have been informed by the Rangers of the platform in the tree up in the northern meadows. The Rangers are still working on a solution to remove it. A litter pick has been organised (see above).

There is barbed wire near the Ruxley Lane footpath, running alongside the golf course. We will aim to remove this at the litter pick.

### **Species sightings**

A Red Kite has been spotted over the park.

### **AOB**

Monika and Bob have moved from the area so will not be attending the meetings anymore. The Friends would like to thank them for their contribution to the group. Stewart Cocker has 3 railway talks coming up and any funds given to him will be donated to the Friends of HCP.

Sarah would like to say farewell for another year and will miss you all whilst on maternity leave. She will return to work during April 2014.

### **Next meeting**

This will be the AGM and will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013, 7:30 pm at 2, West Park Farmhouse.