

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF HADDON WOOD COMMITTEE

held at 6pm on Monday 14 March 2016 at White Chimneys

Present: Mark Curtis, Jo Curtis, Hilary Harrison (Chair), Rose Hubbard, Nick Truman, Nell Hunter (Sec), Gert Schley

MINUTES

Action

- 1 **Apologies for absence:** None
- 2 **Minutes of the last meeting** signed by HH as a true record, with one minor amendment (see Accounts)
- 3 **Matters Arising:**
 - Water Troughs**

JM has reported that Bristol Water seems to have lost interest again, so the status quo has been maintained.
 - WT CEO visit**

Went very well. Becky Speight was very interested and happy with everything.
- 4 **Updates from Joe Middleton**
 - Hedge cutting** - JM had been over to look at the situation after the recent hedge cutting – resultant ruts etc – and was not concerned, except for the corner by the Rugby Club. Even so, he will instruct the contractor to do the work in October (when the ground should be drier/firmer) in future, when possible. He then sent an updated map through for approval, which will be correct once his southernmost marking has been moved to the true southern boundary.
 - Insurance**

The WT no longer allows volunteers to use mechanical equipment on their land (since an incident with a chainsaw in Scotland). MC, a WT certified contractor, has public liability insurance, including 4 employees covered to accompany him. JC will check with JM if this would be allowed. An alternative would be for FHW to get its own insurance at, say, £100 p/a – JC to explore with ie NFU and RIAS
 - Yellow Rattle**

JM will supply seed in August for FHW to sow, after scarifying. MC to explore a scarifier to tow behind his compact tractor, or will hire a hand machine again.
 - Removal of tree tubes**

JM had suggested removing guards from the bigger trees, until HH and NH pointed out that deer had killed the unprotected oaks in the first year. In the end it was decided to experiment with a few, replacing the tubes with rabbit spirals, on the bigger willows near the gateway between F1 and F2, as the deer seem to prefer the more open spaces. Timing should be April/May when the main growth starts.

Tree thinning

JM said not for 10 years, to allow the canopy to spread and keep weeds down.

5 Open Gardens

- Louisa to sell tickets in the Chapel
- where there would also be a photographic display and cards for sale by RH
- Cakes to be sold at White Chimneys and Margy's, with additional by Gemma and Lucy
- Garden preferences so far : Paul Nichols, Julian and Clare, Wessels, Gert, Charles, Trevor and Eve, Eva

Parking

JM has agreed that parking for the event be allowed inside the entrance to the orchard gate. In the event of bad weather the ground inside the Jacobs Lane gate could be an alternative

Timings

It was agreed to increase the open times by one hour to 1 – 5pm

6 Other Events in 2016?

It was decided not to plan any other fund raisers at this time

7 Accounts

As at September

8 A O B

Lease

NT to ask JM when lease would be from. Having spoken to the South Somerset Community Officer, it would not be necessary to hold any sort of referendum

NT

AGM

Will be upstairs at the Alhampton, at 7pm on Wednesday, 20th April

Risk Assessments

JC asked if there were any major projects planned for the coming year, as she would be reviewing the RAs every financial year end. None is planned.

First Aid Refresher

Needs to be done before November 2016. HH to arrange

HH

Additional equipment

The purchase of a new 5' finishing mower, to tow behind the compact tractor was discussed, as existing equipment is not up to the job and there is a lot of mowing to cover, now including the orchard. All present voted in favour of the purchase with MC and JC abstaining.