

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF HADDON WOOD COMMITTEE
held at 6pm on Wednesday 2nd September 2015 at White Chimneys

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

MINUTES

Action

1 Apologies for absence: None

2 Minutes of the last meeting signed by HH as a true record

**3 Matters Arising:
Water Troughs**

The situation is still unclear. JM has managed to establish from Julie Jenkins that all three troughs are metered, though JJ is still waiting to hear from Bristol Water where the meters are and whether supplies to any/all have been turned off. JM will stay on the case. It was thought preferable to keep the one in the orchard and possibly the one above the pond as, being metered, it should be a reasonably cheap option, say £100 pa. MC will check which meters are still connected.

**JM
MC**

4 Benches

MC has built and installed two picnic benches and four simple rustic benches. Approved by all, with thanks.

5 Pond

Despite agreement that no vegetation be introduced to the pond, a better option being to let nature take its course, HH and NH had spotted three types of pond weed that had been brought in. A large clump of iris-type plants had been removed but a few remain round the island, plus clumps of pond weed (both oxygenating and broad-leaved) and blanket weed. JM will check what the weeds already in the pond are and whether there's any cause for concern

JM

On a happier note the pond is holding water, which is both a surprise and a welcome one.

The good and bad news is that thistles are thriving on the island, but that they have attracted a flock of goldfinches.

6 Orchard

- Winter work should be light as apples and pears are looking good. (Stoned fruit trees can be pruned next summer). There will be a morning session on Saturday 26th to fit hessian collars to guards to prevent further

- damage to any damaged trees. FHWC
 - NH to look at clarifying NTs orchard plans before uploading to the blog. NH
 - HH to chase Sarah and Roger Hutton for wording to Bill Hutton's memorial. HH

- 7 Wildflower meadow areas**
 - After discussion it was agreed that the sheep option (to keep the grass down) would be too complicated/time-consuming/worrying and MC agreed to keep the area short with his new tractor-mower
 - NT has taken 10 soil samples to a depth of 15-20cms, but still awaiting results.
 - JM suggested Allington Hill be asked for advice on use of Yellow Rattle. HH to talk to both them and Stephen Wessel. HH

- 8 First Aid refresher**

Not needed until next year (current qualification lasts 2 years), though JM recommended booking in before the time is up, for a lower rate. HH will book a date for next year. HH

- 9 Open Gardens**

The total raised this year from tickets, plants, teas, coffees and cakes was £1660.42

- 10 Accounts**

Current balance, with fund raising this year, less expenses for benches, stands at £3748.93

- 11 AOB**

JM said he was planning to bring the new WT Chief Executive, Becky Speight, to look around Haddon on Weds 9th September.