

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF HADDON WOOD COMMITTEE

held at 6pm on Monday 27th April 2015 at Yew Tree Cottage

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

MINUTES

Action

- 1 **Apologies for absence:** Jo Curtis, Mark Curtis (partial)
- 2 **Minutes of the last meeting** signed by HH as a true record
- 3 **Matters Arising:**
 - **Water Troughs**

HH has contacted Julie (WT), re the current position with the water supply, with no result so far. Will chase. **HH**
 - **Benches**
 - HH has spoken to Stewart Gould to order materials for the picnic table and benches. We will need to get additional parts ie metal fixings **MC**
 - MC provided timber samples for additional, simple benches. Cost would be £22 per length with a total cost of approximately £35 per bench. It was agreed to purchase sufficient materials for 5 benches in the first instance. **MC**
 - HH to contact Fiona de Fontblanc re possible memorial bench for her husband **HH**
 - **Pond**
 - Newly installed tape broke in the strong winds almost immediately. It was agreed that there was little point in replacing such fragile material and that flapping ends might deter wildlife.
 - Noted that dogs are still being allowed (even encouraged) into the pond area, but that not a lot could be done to prevent uncooperative dog owners. It was agreed to keep deterrent signs fresh and keep trying to educate those who fail to get the point.
 - It was agreed to wait until Spring 2016, to see what vegetation establishes naturally, before deciding whether we need to plant the margins for wildlife.
 - **Orchard**
 - NT has replaced the guards on Charles Dowding's apple trees with larger, mesh ones, to allow for outward growth. Noted that some trees are rubbing on the tops of the guards – a risk with not staking them inside their **NT**

protection. NT will experiment with soft tie solutions.

NT

- NT will produce a plan of the orchard before the AGM, plus info sheets for each variety.

- **Bill Hutton memorial**

- Suggested wording *Most of the fruit trees in this orchard kindly donated in memory of Bill Hutton, 1920 – 2014, who farmed these fields for many years.*

- **Wildflower meadow areas – mowing**

In MC's absence, it was agreed that this item be c/f to the next meeting

- **Dog poo**

Noted that RH's yellow signs stand out well

4 **Open Gardens**

Advertising ideas: -

1. Blackmore Vale Magazine
2. Shepton Journal - HH to ask Louisa Osborne about her contact
3. BBC Radio Somerset
4. By 23rd May - Posters at Castle Cary station. Rugby Club, NT to distribute round Bruton, pubs, Garden Clubs, on blog
5. Blog post

HH

NH

NT

NH

5 **AGM**

The issue of leasing will be discussed at an SGM when NT has further information on setting up a limited company as well as applying for charitable status

6 **Accounts**

Deferred in Jo Curtis' absence

7 **A O B**

- GS reported local annoyance about the negativity of the *No Parking* signs by the Chapel. It was explained that these were erected by the Parish Council as a local resident had complained to them about parking off the road. They are nothing to do with Haddon Wood.