

**MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF HADDON WOOD COMMITTEE**  
held at 7.30pm on Thursday 16 June 2016 at Yew Tree Cottage

**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

**3 Matters Arising:**

**Water Troughs** - Bristol Water has reinstated the standing charge. In addition, any running of the troughs will be metered.

**4 Open Gardens**

HH said congratulations were due to all for a very successful year with takings of £2028.69 and Anne Haddon had been delighted with her first visit to the event. It was agreed that RH would send her two more packs of postcards and 10 pens. **RH**

225 tickets were sold which, despite less than ideal weather conditions, was up on last year with some people coming from as far away as Gloucestershire.

Parking in the Chapel field was a huge improvement on previous years, though it was agreed that we should acquire traffic cones to prevent excess parking in surrounding areas. NT reported that by 2.30 54 cars had arrived (almost maximum capacity) but, after that, sufficient turnover meant things ran smoothly and NT was able to leave at 4.00pm. More disciplined parking would improve matters in the future.

Sales of cakes, plants and promotional materials were all excellent – particularly the latter which was a new departure for FHW.

The only slightly disappointing aspect was the lack of numbers visiting the Hutton's lovely garden in Sutton, probably because of its distance from Alhampton.

**Future planning**

- Traffic cones and second parking assistant
- Disabled parking area
- Possible dog poo bag holder with "Looking after Haddon Wood" printed on them and Christmas cards

- Link on the blog to a page selling promotional materials
- Tractor and trailer (possibly) for transporting visitors to outlying gardens

## 5 Insurance

JC reported quotes ranging between £400 - £800 p/a for two additional named people (ie NT and Alf Brummel) to carry out brushcutting/strimming.

NH is exploring further options with Allen & Thomas in Gillingham.

**NH**

HH suggested and it was agreed to leave matters as they stand until NT has spoken to the relevant people about a lease.

## 6 Leasing

NT has spoken to Justin Robinson (ex County Councillor, currently advising councils on leases) and other people with experience of running woodlands and will be speaking to the Forestry Commission re grant funding.

**NT**

In the meantime the consensus seems to be veering towards needing a way to ensure that Haddon Wood remains a community asset in perpetuity, run by local people, not least because of its strong links to the community, eg a major portion of the orchard has been provided by local people.

After much research (and some discussion in FHWC meetings during the last two years) NT is close to the conclusion that should FHW decide to lease Haddon Wood it would be preferable to do so as a company limited by guarantee (eg Haddon Wood, Alhampton) and a registered charity (with the resultant access to funding), as local trustees of the latter would be able to respond to local need.

In order to go back to Justin Millward (of the WT) a decision needs to be taken on the above; whether to lease from, say, April 2018 and what form a lease would take eg term.

## 7 Other events in 2016

### Sowing Yellow Rattle

MC had held off arranging a hay cut until after the Open Gardens, but will arrange now. He will then cut the wild flower areas again, prior to a sowing and look into acquiring a scarifier to tow behind the mini tractor. It was agreed that the FHW be asked, if free, to bring a rake on Saturday 20 August

from 10.00am to 12.00noon to help clear the area.

**MC**

**Removal of tree tubes**

NH and RH to test with a few on the larger trees.

**NH/RH**

**Wood Turning**

Margy's son, Jack, might be persuaded to do a pole lathe woodturning demonstration

**Tree Identification sessions**

Jo Middleton would be happy to do more tree identification sessions so HH will canvas opinion among local primary schools.

**HH**

**Wassailing**

JC suggested organising a small wassail for the village with a bonfire and marshmallows on sticks

**8 Accounts**

JC reported a starting balance of £2912.92, closing balance of £5941.61, in movement of £3028.69

**9 A O B**

- RH will send updated pictures of Haddon Wood to the WT website
- It was agreed that orchard stakes should be replaced with 2-3" rounds as existing are not strong enough. MC will look into costs.