

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF HADDON WOOD COMMITTEE

held at 7.30pm on Monday 24th July 2017 at Meadowside

Present: Mark Curtis (PR), 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: -

Leasing – including information from another WT

leased wood – As the main point of calling the meeting had been to take a final decision on whether or not to lease, HW from the WT, most of the discussion centred round that.

HH reported a conversation with a representative of another West Country wood, whose parish council lease only a 14 acre portion of their 44 acre wood and only chose to do so to resolve a disagreement with the WT. They had not therefore had to set up an independent organisation as we would have to do. Positive points from the conversation included ideas on possible fund raisers such as family events and Forest Schools (only recently sanctioned by the WT). Their management costs amount to about £2000 p/a. Interestingly Haddon is much larger and newer than other woods the WT usually lease.

During discussions on the pros and cons of FHW leasing, worries emerged about what the WT would do if we decided against. If they leased to someone else, would we be prepared to walk away? On the other hand, public access is guaranteed anyway and do we want to/do we have the time to take on more responsibility than we already have? It is to be hoped that as we already do most of the work involved, it would not be an issue.

After much discussion it was agreed that at her next PC meeting HH would float the idea of their taking on a lease of Haddon instead (as an established body and therefore not having the legal expense of setting one up), should the WT insist on following through, though it was thought unlikely they would want to do so.

Finally it was agreed that the WT be informed that at the moment the majority of the committee has neither the time nor desire to set up a legal entity for leasing, nor is there the interest in the wider group of Friends. It is hard to see

sufficient benefit to FHW to override the limited resources currently available, so we are not in a position to proceed - though of course that could change in the future.

GS

Yellow Rattle sowing – JoM will be collecting 2 kilos of seed from Allington which, together with seed harvested by us, should be sown end August/beginning September. GS will email everyone when it is time.

4 Work required: -

Thistles – brushcutting session on Saturday 29th July.

Removal of tree guards – session booked for Saturday 5th August

Orchard – HH would suggest to Nationwide that removing grass and re-staking in Spring could be a good opportunity for their volunteers to get involved.

HH

Fallen tree clearance – not necessary

Insurance – agreed necessary, though JC will hold off until after HH has spoken to JoM

JC/HH

5 Open Gardens: -

Result – final total £2452.60

Plans for next year –

- help Ditchat with their Open Gardens in return for a donation
- visit to the Oak Fair at Stock Gaylard on Saturday 26th August to see if any exhibitors might be interested in participating in an event at Haddon in 2018. Cathy of Allington Wood will be there, so a good opportunity to meet up. Details to be finalised nearer the time.

HH

Training –

- HH to ask First Aid trainer for a date in November
- Brushcutting qualification lasts for 5 years, so not necessary until 2019

HH

JC

6 Accounts: -

Balance £8,934.55

JC

9 A O B: -

An Alhampton resident had been seen strimming nettles outside his boundary and when he was told it was not allowed under WT regulations and that brushcutting was going to take place anyway, his response was “tough” and he carried on. It was agreed that, as PR, MC would have a word with him

MC