

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF HADDON WOOD COMMITTEE

held at 7.15pm on Thursday 26 September 2016 at Meadowside

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:

Yellow Rattle – has been sown in the areas agreed, although only half, leaving more to be sown at a later date.

Removal of tree tubes – NH and HH had removed the guards from some of the bigger trees, which revealed rotting, sweaty grass and a number of trees with double stems, which will need removing at some point. **NB** There will be an FHW de-grassing session on Saturday 8th October from 10.00-1.00pm

All

4 Leasing

From NT's discussions with Justin Milward, he had gleaned that the WT only has leases for mature woodland, those generally run for 25 years and that, once leased, no further funds would be forthcoming from the WT.

It was agreed that the FHWC should start gathering information regarding future maintenance costs and then fundraising would work towards meeting those. Ideas of costs anticipated included

- MC said mowing - orchard and paths - at say, 4 hours p/session and HH to ask Parish Council for their mowing costs.
- HH to ask Jo M what current costs are
- HH to discover the cost of mowing paths if done by a contractor (Tony's Garden Services).
- Mowing large areas: possibly grass crop could be taken in return for this service.
- Insurance – Public Liability and Employers
- Tool maintenance, including £400 annually for tractor
- Signage
- Pond maintenance
- Training – ie brushcutting, First Aid
- Mileage allowance for Trustees

HH

HH

HH

NT had given Justin Milward a list of questions to be answered at a projected meeting between him and FHWC

5 Insurance

After a lot of discussion with them about the implications of

having no formal status (ie not yet Leaseholder / registered charity etc) NH had received a provisional quote for brushcutting from Allen & Thomas of £500. It was agreed that this was still high and therefore that JC would commission a day with NT and AB, covered by MC's insurance. Signs, Hi-Viz and protective clothing would be used.

JC
NT
MC
AB

6 Orchard

A few trees need re-staking as soon as possible and doing these will establish a system for a FHW event in November to deal with the rest. (**NB** 10.00-1.00pm, Sunday 20th Nov)

All

HH will let AB know that he's welcome to re-stake other random trees in the main part of the wood

HH

7 Children and dogs in the pond

Increasingly a problem, it was agreed that the signage needed to be renewed. RH to produce 4 x signs with 'NO DOGS IN POND' on coloured paper, probably yellow this time.

RH

8 Events/fundraising in 2016/7

- **Wassailing** – agreed it was too early
- **Tree festival** – summer 2017
- **Wood turning** – HH to raise with Margy re her son
- **Tree ID sessions** – JC to give HH a list of schools to contact, plus HH to contact FHW
- **De-grassing** – FHW day, Saturday 8th October 10.00-1.00pm

9 Donation for Plum tree

NT to look into acquiring as large as possible a specimen (or two) to be paid for with a £100 donation.

NT

10 Accounts

JC reported a closing balance of £6126.28. She also reported that the HW merchandise produced by RH has now gone into profit.

11 A O B

- **Forest of Avon Trust** are holding a volunteer training day, and whilst it was agreed that it is too early for the committee HH will forward the invitation to the FHW
- **Dog poo bins** were discussed again as NH had discovered that Somerset Waste Partnership would incorporate them into their rounds but, again, it was agreed that most people are behaving responsibly.
- **Noted** that an unauthorised access has been created next to the Chapel boundary.