

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF HADDON WOOD COMMITTEE

held at 7.30pm on Monday 6 February 2017 at White Chimneys

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

De-Grassing of Tree Tubes went well, though few people turned out. This will be ongoing, though, as Friends will deal with more while out walking

Costs for leasing - HH has more work to do before the meeting with Jo Middleton and Justin Milward

HH

Brushcutting – has been carried out to clear walkways

Orchard re-staking – There has been one good Friends' session and NT has done another and has enough materials, with the exception of the more substantial stakes. HH will ask WT for an additional 60 to complete the job

HH

Children and dogs in pond – the latest signs put up were almost immediately vandalised. More discussion needed.

4 Leasing

HH would offer Jo Middleton and Justin Milward a choice of dates for a meeting, plus light lunch at the Alhampton Inn. Most of the committee would like to be involved. Questions to be asked would include

- Are any grants available?
- Is there any money left from the original fundraising?
- Length of lease on offer?
- What type of association would we need to be?
- Who would cover the costs of setting up, say, a charity?
- What liabilities could we be subject to?
- What does the WT cover us for?
- What ongoing support or restrictions would we have?
- Which (if either) party would have to fund replacement stock fencing removed by the WT?
- Is the WT intending to supply the promised interpretation boards and re-hang all gates, to make the site secure, before any lease is signed?
- Has the WT leased to a charity before and if so, which area of public benefit? (Recreational preferred by FHWC) and can we have details so we can contact them ourselves to determine the realities? (HH to ask in advance of the meeting).

HH

[NB meeting provisionally pencilled in for 3rd April]

5 Events fundraising –

- **Woodturning demo** - Margy has reported that her son would be happy to hold one, as and when required.
- JC suggested a **Nature Trail**. Agreed a good idea, but perhaps leave until the wood is a little more mature.
- Linda Wyburn-Mason of Ditchheat has asked to 'combine' an **Open Gardens** event – ie their gardens with our expertise re signage, publicity etc in return for a share of the profits. This could mean Alhampton having a year off in 2018, when we could organise a different kind of event in the wood. HH to discuss with her further.
- **Tree ID** session with Jo Middleton? ... to be continued...

HH

6 Orchard

- **Chris Henning** and family will be planting a **Mulberry** tree on 5th March, having been given the location by HH. They also want to donate £100 to general funds.
- **GS** has spoken to his friends about the location for the new **plum trees** in memory of **Mary**. The orchard is preferred and they would be happy for their donation of £100 to be used for, say, a small copse of plum whips with remaining monies being used for different varieties of fruit. If the latter are bigger, container-grown plants, GS will water them. NT to source from the usual accredited suppliers.

HH

HH
NT

- 7 **AGM** date set for Thursday, 20th April this year. JC to ask the pub re availability.

JC

8 Accounts

Current balance £6041.72 (of which £100 ring-fenced for plum trees)

9 A O B

- HH to ask Margy to give a talk on her WT **Woodland Management** course at the AGM