

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF HADDON WOOD COMMITTEE

Held on Thursday 6th June 2019 at Yew Tree Cottage

Present: Mark Curtis, Jo Curtis, Hilary Harrison, Rose Hubbard, Wendy Silver, Nell Hunter, Gert Schley

MINUTES

Action

1 Apologies for absence: None

2 Minutes of the last meeting signed by HH as a true record

3 Welcome to our new committee member, Wendy Silver, who briefly outlined her background, including in IT but, now retired, regularly walks her dogs in Haddon Wood and is keen to take a more proactive role.

Election of officers –

Chair – HH (proposed JC, seconded WS); Treasurer – JC (proposed HH, seconded NH); Secretary – NH (proposed RH, seconded MC); PR – MC (proposed HH, seconded NH)

4 Removal of tree guards and widening of paths –

- is going very well, helped enormously by additional sessions by other groups (see Brue Valley, below)
- Future de-tubing sessions: 15 June with JC taking the lead roll (with emphasis this session on tidying stakes and tubes); 20 July / MC; 17 August / WS.
- MC is widening as he mows, removing low hanging branches as they encroach on his route

**JC
MC
WS**

Purchase of brushcutter – done

**MC
MC**

Open Gardens review – Total achieved this year (including donations - £10; tickets - £1955; refreshments - £775.19; lemonade sales - £138.13; sales of plants - £206.80; stakes and ties £191.84, less insurance and printing expenses), of £3085.96. It was noted that Charles Dowding's brother was selling cider and should be asked to make a donation in future and would Charles make clearer in future that he would be open as part of the village OG day, as several of his visitors had had no idea.

HH

Harry's bench – Wendy and Angela want to go ahead with a simple bench sited overlooking the pond and it was agreed that MC would source oak (probably for under £100) and get on with it. WS has a person in mind to carve a discreet dedication.

LANTRA training – HH to chase PA about current requirements (see last meeting's minutes for details)

MC/WS

Brue Valley Rotary - did a great job detubing and want to come again, but current WT regulations dictate that without the relevant insurance that cannot happen. HH has asked Chris Ringrow to check and she will check with PA if their insurance would be sufficient for the WT

HH

Stephen Woodgate visit – JC, RH and NH had met with him and his wife and discussed both Haddon and their wood, Haddon Fields –

HH

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very different, comprising a scant proportion of trees, the majority being sheep-grazed pasture, with a stream running through and exposed fossils. They are very keen on forest schools with emphasis on the latter

5 Merchandise

RH had had a stall at the April *Rendezvous*, but will not go again until Oct/Nov/Dec. She will take space at Alhampton's fête on 22nd June though, and WS offered to sell cards and give out leaflets at Castle Cary's Christmas Market, an offer gratefully accepted.

6 WT volunteer day – feedback

HH reported that it had been worth going, though the standard of presentation had not been good, with the exception of the last speaker promoting the Tree Charter. Other than that, they had gleaned the information that PA is our Volunteer Manager, as well as our Woodland Manager, that the use of all mechanical tools is under review with a decision expected in 3 – 4 months and HH had listened to a tree

7 Becoming a Charter Branch

JC to investigate and report back

8 WT member recruitment

Apparently means the WT will employ a company to erect a gazebo outside one of the main gates in June, hoping to catch new members. Generally agreed that it would be a waste of their time and money, unless rolled into one of our events.

9 Accounts: -

Expenditure for this year to date - £1079.33

10 A O B

- Agreed that MC should get the mower serviced at FoHW expense
- WS is prepared to scatter wildflower seed around the pond and maybe in a swathe elsewhere (if MC can give such an area a very low mow) if it helps the general effort
- JC and RH are booked on a willow workshop with Angela Morley on 4 July (£130) – hopefully to learn to make something for an autumn event...
- ... **Haddon Wood Day, on Sunday 22nd September.** JC proposed a
 - **Treasure Hunt** – for local groups to make trees and hide them in the wood
 - **Bag a Bug** made of wood from the wood (see above)
 - **Buy a stick** (one of Rob Travis')
 - **Barbecue** and **Merchandise**
- JC asked that we discuss roundhouses at our next meeting