

Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 14 December 2011

Present

Marion Goodrich	Carole Danbury
Phil Goodrich	Emma Pugh
Dil Griffiths	Lorraine Fellows
Julian Hayes	Brenda Luck
Glen Sibley	Howard Medlicott, SSDC

Apologies received from:

Carolyn Redshaw	Joyce Bradley
Edna Sibley	Lyn Griffiths

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Agreed and adopted: proposed by Glen Sibley, seconded by Phil Goodrich.

SSDC update

Howard reported that following the site meeting held on 18th November which was attended by representatives of the Forest of Mercia, Atkins (land contamination) and SSDC contractors, clearing of the area in and around the pond is now nearly complete. Trees (mainly silver birches) have been felled and the trunks left to form habitat piles; brash is to be removed by the contractors. Pat Davies carried out pool profiling: the bentonite suppliers say that this is at present unsuitable as the bentonite would slip under pressure of water. The pool is to be re-profiled but this has been delayed as the specialised machinery required was vandalised at a previous job. There was discussion of where the machinery could safely be stored while on site. It is hoped that the bentonite will be installed by the end of March 2012.

Sampling by Carl from Atkins has shown traces of asbestos: this can be dealt with, but probably not until mid-January.

It is hoped that pond restoration will continue at the end of next summer with planting and boardwalk construction. Boardwalk construction was discussed: this needs to be largely professionally done, perhaps with help from FOBS and Explorers.

Finance: Section 106 money is available for the bentonite; work carried out by Forest of Mercia is free of charge; grounds maintenance money is available for tree work.

Report from Dil and Phil

The Beavers have expressed an interest in having an area of their own to plant, possibly alongside the lay-by in Horsebrook Lane. There was discussion about how this should best be managed. It was agreed that a site meeting, to which the relevant Scout leaders would be invited, was required. A possible date is the working party on 26th February 2012.

Other work planned

Howard reported that a scavenge of the large surface rubbish is to be carried out soon; also redressing of some footpaths.

There was discussion about the best way to control the Japanese knotweed i.e. cutting down, stem injection and/or foliar spraying. It was agreed that Julian and Glen would liaise with Ryan (the GPS whizz from SSDC) regarding a date for logging all the knotweed areas prior to the contractors starting work on this problem.

Following an enquiry from Phil, Howard said that wildflower seed may be available in the new year.

Co-ordination of Friends Groups in South Staffs

Howard suggested that following the failure to convene a general meeting of Friends Groups, a better plan may be for him to meet with the chairmen of all the Friends Groups. He hoped that each chairman would bring along aims and objectives, comments and criticisms from their individual groups so that experiences could profitably be shared.

Raising the profile of Friends groups with respect to their social and financial benefit to the county would strengthen the case for their continued support from SSDC.

To this end it was agreed that a diary of FOBS events and activities should be kept.

Treasurer's update

Phil reported a bank balance of £208.30 at 24th November 2011 (this includes the donation from SSCVA), and a cash float of approximately £11. Approximately £36 is owed to Glen for timber.

Activities for next year

Following the success of the badger talk etc., the Chairman requested ideas for next year. Proposals included a dawn chorus walk in early May, a badger watch, a bat walk, a fungus foray, a wildflower walk, and bird talks.

AOB

Howard brought to the meeting a calendar designed by the Essington group as a fundraiser. Emma suggested that the 4 schools in Brewood be invited to enter a competition to provide monthly pictures for a calendar to be sold locally next autumn.

Next meeting: 25th January 2012 at 7.30 pm

Next working party: 29th January 2012 at 10am

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.