

Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds

Meeting held on Wednesday 26th July 2017

Present

Marion Goodrich	Carole Danbury
Joyce Bradley	Brenda Luck
Peter Rock	Lynn Pinson
Glen Sibley	Carolyn Redshaw

Apologies received

Philip Goodrich

Minutes of last meeting

Agreed and adopted : proposed by Glen, seconded by Pete

Chairman's Update

Following the Pond-dipping on 25th June 2017 Sue Shanks arranged for analysis of a sample of pond water : water chemistry results indicate that the pond is unpolluted and that the water quality is good for wildlife (copy of report on file).

Wolgarston Community Day Thursday July 20th :

5 students attended with PE teacher Mrs. Sally Stanton. They arrived at 0900 and following an introductory walk round the Sandbeds they worked with Marion, Phil and Brenda until about 1430 with a break for lunch. The students were soon working as a team and the copse adjacent to Top Meadow was cleared of hawthorn, elder, briar etc. The students worked hard and cheerfully and it was a very useful and enjoyable day.

Having seen all the litter in the pond, another group of students and teacher arrived at short notice and made an excellent job of litter-picking the pond.

Marion has emailed the good wishes of FOBS to Mr. Chris Curtis, deputy headmaster, on his retirement; it is hoped that the annual Wolgarston Community Day will continue successfully.

Visit by group from National Citizen Service :

On 18th July the Chairman received an unannounced phone call from 16-year old James from the NCS group presently based at St. Dominic's. James

presented several ideas for the Sandbeds including picnic tables and rubbish bins; Marion explained to him that this was a natural and wildlife site and not a park, but offered to meet the group. A leader and several students met Marion & Phil and asked to borrow tools for a working party; this took place for a short time on Friday 21st July. This situation was fully discussed at the FOBS meeting and it was concluded that there was a naive and worrying lack of prior consultation and planning and an absence of helpful leadership on the part of NCS.

Report from Glen

New EU Data Protection rules come into force in 2018. These stipulate that names and addresses may not be advertised on a website, only designations i.e. roles must be separated from personal details. Glen will ensure that the FOBS website complies.

Financial Report

Balance at bank £203.83

It was learnt yesterday that the Veolia grant of £260 has been approved. Phil will attend the presentation in Stafford next week. The money is to be used for a leaf blower and associated sundries.

An application has been submitted for a Mark Sutton grant (for a second pond platform).

AOB

Marion saw on the TV programme “Love Your Garden” a design for a bench constructed from a single railway sleeper. This may be suitable for a bench on Top Meadow and another by the pond.

Glen is now on the Parish Council’s Memorial subcommittee and will inform FOBS of relevant developments. It may be possible to transfer a redundant bench in the village to the Sandbeds.

Phil suggests that a plaque be affixed to the pond platform(s) in due course to show the sources of funding.

Next meeting : 30th August 2017