

LSP MEETING NOTES Monday 5th of June 2023

PRESENT: - Alison, John, Ange, Mark, Alan P., Paul, Alan B., Ruth, Dean, Liz, Richard, Michaela, Chris and Caroline.

Issues from last meeting notes: - Caroline asked about the progress made with EA regarding the outstanding work of completing the work (filling in holes and mending the coir matting) on the berms. Paul has made enquiries but has had no contact with Carry Wright.

Treasurer's report: -

At the last meeting there was £17,500 in the account

At present there is £12,479 including £10,000 for the new path and WEF funds

Maintenance and Work Parties: -

- Update on recent work parties- some tree guards and stakes need replacing (Kev will give these to Alan B for us to replace)
- The materials for the new path have been delivered.
- Upcoming work parties- the little owl box needs to be secured to suitable tree. Alan P has offered to help with this.
- Balsam Bashing seems to be the most pressing activity for this time of year.
- Log for Rob Trueblood's plaque needs to be moved to suitable position.
- It was agreed that evening sessions should be on Thursdays but anyone wanting to join Liz and family on Wednesday would be welcome.
- It was agreed that we would continue with 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Invasives: -

Paul informed us that there are more volunteers who have been trained to spray the Giant Hogweed. It was agreed that we would cut any flowers that formed before they were able to seed. Paul will direct us to the correct piece of equipment (long arm cutters). We must always remove the sap from tools after cutting Giant Hogweed.

People and Community: -

Chris reported that the tree planting event had been a great success and wondered if we would need to water the trees. Many of the young people who had attended the tree planting event were enthusiastic about the project.

Eco-day, two of the schools which have been the most enthusiastic about the tree planting are The Elms Hub and Ribble Drive so we thought that it would be a good idea to show our appreciation by running an event for them. Chris passed around our plans, so far Paul (pond dipping) Mark and Stuart Wilson (photographing birds) have offered to run sessions. Alison, John, Felicity, Chris and Caroline have agreed to support groups of students. We agreed that there would be four sessions running for about half an hour each. Chris has agreed to order a porta loo.

Nature and Biodiversity: -

- Liz reminded us about 'I naturalist' and nature spots.
- Michaela would like to organise a bird survey; she took part in one at Philips Park and thought that it would be appropriate to run one in Springwater Park. Michaela will contact the staff at Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

Projects

- National Lottery Community Fund – path update Chris informed us that he has had contact with builder and informed him that unless the work is completed in August, we will lose the funds!
- Nature reserve application and launch Paul informed us that although agreement has been reached the process in making a formal agreement has stalled because of the change of staff at Natural England. Hopefully it will become official by the summer.

Vandalism

- Chris informed the meeting that he had sent a schedule of problems to the local councillors and the PCSO it was agreed that we would like to talk to the PCSO and show her what had happened.

It was agreed that we should not make anything which was not vandal proof. We reminded the meeting that any fires should be reported to the fire brigade especially since the ground is so dry at present.

Litter bins

- Alan gave a brief history of his communications with Graham Scoon about the removal of the litter bins in the park and the local area.

High Vis Vests: -

Liz informed us that Kathy had found it difficult to order the High Vis vests and because of the delay there was time for us to agree if we would like to have our contact details on the vests too we all agreed that this would be a good idea.

Tools

- Chris informed the meeting that we have some extra tools (long arm choppers) and asked if anyone wanted them Liz was the only person who said that she would like them.
- Chris read out the appreciative letter from Christine and her sister and it was agreed that he should send a reply.
- Co-op local fund letter, Chris said that he felt that it was too much effort to do this given the time it took to obtain the funding and that the funds were only paid after funds had been spent. Mark encouraged him to apply suggesting that we would use the money for what we had intention of buying anyway.
- Alan asked if there would be an event for the placement of Rob Trueblood's plaque and if there is can he have plenty of advance warning so that he can get in touch with an old friend of Rob's.
- Chris told the meeting that it was possible to get a swift box from Bolton and Bury Swifts Louise Bentley 0755 7796508 superswifts@outlook.com Swifts are now on the Red list of Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC) in the UK following a 58% decline since 1995 leading to the risk of extinction.
- Date for next meeting it was agreed that we should move to more regular quarterly meetings on the first Monday of the quarter at the Goats Gate. Caroline has booked a meeting for the 4th of September.