

# FFOG meeting- Decisions & Actions

Location: zoom

Date: 04.11.21

Time: 7.30 TO 9.30 PM

Attendees Sue Nieduszynski, Hilary Short, Mick Short, Ian Proctor, Peter Tilley, Graham Brandwood, Steve Bullen, Clio Graham, David Elliot, Chris Workman, Anne Greenwood

Apologies  
Dave Brookes

ITEM	ISSUE	DECISION	ACTION	OWNER
2 previous Minutes	Accepted			
3 Matters Arising. Actions confirmed.	4.4.1 Liming not allowed. Peter was to explore the cost so this action no longer required 7.1 Ian confirmed that he had been in touch with Andy Lee about the annual tree survey and this will be completed when he has the time.			
3.1 Actions carried over from previous minutes	4.1.3 Sightings board. Problems with trivia being written on the board, petty vandalism and the Perspex damaged.	Repair the board and re-institute it's use. To be discussed further with David	Sanding of woodwork and Anti-graffiti varnish to be applied to the woodwork Perspex to be replaced and pens supplied	Peter. Hilary to supply varnish

	4.6 Hay Meadow: Another derogation will be required next year. Hilary has contacted Dave re this		Derogation to be requested for grazing off the Hay Meadow	Dave
4.1	Arable Field:-Sue. Aubrey Hoyle will take the contract for next year.		Aubrey busy at present. Sue will send reminder	Sue
4.1 cont	There has been regrowth of grass & crop in the field. This has been cleared by mowing & strimming at the top of the field creating conditions suitable for Linnets. Bird feeding table back in place.		To also clear the bottom of the field (ongoing)	Sue Dan Steve Clio Ian Eddie(LDBWS)
4.2	Grazing: -Hilary. Update on herd size- 11 have gone leaving 19. (12.6 livestock units) This will allow 47 days of grazing in the Natural England fields. If one more cow & 2 calves go to market in January this will equate to 11.4 livestock units remaining and will allow 49 days of grazing.		Glenys to draw up access timetable & Hilary to send to Frazer in November	Hilary
4.3	Sapling planting: -Ian. 350 saplings from Cheviot Trees to be planted in the next few weeks. 925 from Woodland trust (1000 were promised) arrive on 09.12.21 and are 5 basic species. In addition, Dave Brookes forwarded an email from eForest offering free trees that have to be accessible to the public	Main planting of Woodland Trust saplings to be on Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec which will be a community event. To buy a small quantity of diverse species. £100 agreed for this. Store the eForest details for possible future use.	Ian to order more diverse species	Ian
4.4.1	Ponds : LWT project-. Peter updated the group about the ongoing work (phase two) of the	The new pond in Lower Sowerholme needs to be named	LWT to be asked to dig a drain between ponds 2 and 3	Peter

	Great Crested Newt Project and other pond restoration. This will be ongoing until 15th November 2021 Peter expressed his thanks to Graham for his experience and knowledge of Upper & Lower Sowerholme terrain & drainage.		Organise a competition for naming of the new pond	Anne?
4.4.1 cont	Flora Pond: Refer to reports- Flora Field Management plan from Peter and Flora & Fauna monthly report of 01.11.21 Graham	Peter, Graham & Ian to take forward the management objectives over the next year. Further discussion needed on reducing the arable area to create broader more diverse wildflower margins	Peter will ascertain when the checking for newts and the genetic markers will be carried out. Peter & Hilary Smith to re-survey this in July 22  Sue to contact Phil Hendry re dragonfly survey	Peter  Sue
4.5	Orchard Report: Refer to report from Hilary & Glenys.	This need to be revisited as there was not a clear conclusion	Ian to convene a site meeting for more focussed discussion  Ian to add an addendum to the report regarding removal of aspen suckers beyond a 10m radius of the stump.  Hilary & Glenys will discuss with Keith what would be suitable low growing shrubs in the southern end of the Orchard	Ian  Ian  Hilary

4.6	Meadows: seed scattering by Sue, Steve & Clio in Carr House meadow donated by Carol Edmondson. Plugs to be planted tomorrow		Sue to send out list of seed species & plugs	Sue
4.7	Electric Fence: Has been purchased & ready to use.			
5.1	Maintenance & HLS habitat inspections: Refer to Graham's report. 15 bales of Hay have been delivered	Defer the decision on coppicing in the woodland extension. To ask for Glen Swainson's opinion when he visits	To add an addendum to this report about lack of beneficial seed-bearing weeds in the flora field regrowth	Sue
5.1 cont.	Hay meadow	Damage to the bund from the cattle & algal growth on the pond. To consider permanent fencing (LWT were against this) or to consider using the electric fence if it is known that the cattle will be in the meadow. To discuss further after Glen Swainson's visit	To add an addendum that cattle have accessed the Hay meadow on 11 days in the last 2 months & were not locked in.	Sue
5.2	Butterfly surveys: refer to Peters report		Peter to embed a map of zones of the area and a spreadsheet of the numbers & species in each zone in his final report  Christine Bennet's report uses grid references. Sue will translate this into geographical areas	Peter  Sue

5.3	Nature Reserve Review-Sue	Important to establish what we have done & where we are but also important to establish where we want to go to and to be ready for any new funding opportunities.	Sue requested that less experienced FFOG members might work with those with more experience on the reports & surveys. Expressions of interest invited	Any
6.1	Volunteer activities: Ian-September report-wildflower seed has been sown in an area of the playground. This needs marking up next spring to prevent the council from mowing the area		Micks email to the council sums up playground issues generally and to go on the record for this meeting	Anne
6.2	Work plans for November & December-see report-Ian	Agreed		
7.1	Arrangements	Agreed		
7.2	Financial control: Graeme Skelcher's invoice= £650 Awaiting Aubrey's invoice back to July Awaiting Dan's invoice £100 agreed to buy more diverse saplings			
7.3	Events-Glen Swainson's visit		Oliver to liaise with Glen. Sue will email Oliver re this	Sue
AOB	Peter - increasing importance of funding opportunities for carbon capture & sequestration by habitat. There is ongoing research on this at Lancaster University	Peter & Hilary Smith to look into this further. Possible that might want to use Fairfield Reserve in their research. Further discussion as to whether this could result in	Peter will take this forward with Hilary Smith (Phil Barker at the Lancaster Environment Centre may be the person to contact)	Peter

		a public lecture or open discussion	Peter will circulate 2 documents on carbon storage	
AOB	During the meeting Peter suggested using the Hay Meadow as two separate habitats			

Next meeting 7.30 pm Thursday January 13<sup>th</sup> FMH