

# FFOG meeting- Decisions & Actions

Location: FMH room 1

Date: 05.05.22

Time: 7.30 to 9.30pm

Attendees: Sue Nieduszynski (chair), Graham Brandwood, David Brookes, Steve Bullen, David Elliot, Clio Graham, Anne Greenwood, Ian Procter, Hilary Short, Chris Workman,

Apologies: Mick Short, Hilary Smith.

ITEM	ISSUE	DECISION	ACTION	OWNER
2. previous Minutes	Accepted.	All agreed		
3.1 carried over from previous minutes	Carbon Capture: Funding & Research opportunities. Visit by researcher at Lancaster University postponed due to illness		Hilary to re-organise at a future date	Hil
3.1 cont.	Dave is in the process of requesting a derogation for Hay Meadow			Dave
4.1.1	Arable field: Sue had sent out a paper following a site meeting on 27.04.22. When the field was ploughed on April 7 <sup>th</sup> the margins were reduced. The paper included proposals on how to remedy the situation as far as possible	In future to consider measuring from a fixed point such as a wall. Aubrey needs to know in advance how much seed to buy as this is expensive.	Actions as detailed in paper of the site meeting	Ian, Peter, Sue & Others

4.1 cont.	Sue would appreciate help with the management of the Arable Field		Offers of help requested	All
4.1. cont.	The bird tables have been removed to be repaired and revarnished for next year (Ian N)	All agreed it had been successful again this year. The pens for the board will be removed over the summer holidays to prevent graffiti	David to replace the pens	David
4.2	<p>Grazing: Hilary. The graziers were within the prescription at the end of the winter. Herd size is 26 (includes 7 calves) = 14.3 livestock units.</p> <p>Graham asked if a date for a meeting with the graziers had been decided and if there would be opportunity for input from FFOG</p> <p>Hilary explained that cattle are a matter for the trustees, FFOG members input when it is material to reserve maintenance.</p> <p>Sue suggested that these could be picked up as we work through the management items on the agenda</p> <p>Graham suggested that Big Meadow should be taken out of the “grazing equation” and referred to Peter’s paper detailing proposals for the future of grazing on the reserve (see also item 4.4.2).</p> <p>Sue pointed out that these proposals are outside of current agreements so not relevant to current discussions.</p> <p>Graham queried the payment for hay for the graziers and stated that if this is repeated, he will complain to the charity commission.</p>		Hilary to arrange the annual meeting with the graziers	

	Hilary stated that we are following advice that as the cattle are an integral to the management of the reserve, payment for winter feed is appropriate			
4.3.1	Woodland & hedges: Tree Sapling Planting- Ian. Refer to Ian's report. This is a preliminary paper detailing 3 proposals and decisions will be needed in July.	Standard trees could include crab apple and hawthorn to ensure variation in height.	Ian requested feedback on the paper with suggestions before the July FFOG meeting	All
4.4.1	LWT visit Westfield -Sue (see report). Pam had been in contact with Peter about a starting date.			
4.4.2	Rush Management in Big Meadow- Steve had contacted Colin McShane. (See report) who thought that allowing the area of rush to increase would increase the numbers of both Jack Snipe & Common Snipe & possibly reed buntings. Colin McShane will visit next winter to ascertain snipe numbers using thermal imaging equipment. Number of wintering snipe in the soft rush of Big Meadow are impressive. Graham commented that this was the most successful part of the reserve & should be protected from too much grazing which would damage the moss and grass. The area should be promoted as an important wetland area and this should be helpful for securing future funding.	It was agreed that the rush would not be scythed this year.		
4.4.3	Pond naming: Final options were presented, and a consensus was reached.	Westfield: Westfield North & Westfield South		

		<p>Flora Field: Frog, Toad, Newt &amp; Tadpole in order of size</p> <p>Lower Sowerholme: Existing Pond is Willow East, and the second pond is Willow West</p> <p>It was agreed that we would not put up notices for Flora Field ponds as we don't want to encourage people to stand on the road</p>		
5.1	<p>Volunteer reports for March &amp; April:</p> <p>There is an apple ladder that is rarely used and has been stored in Carole Martins's garage along with 2 marquees.</p> <p>Andy Lee will be supplying some hardwood log slices for Tony's children's groups.</p>	<p>Give first refusal of the apple ladder to Andy Lee</p> <p>Another option would be to sell e.g. on eBay.</p> <p>One of the marquees can be stored in the triangle and the other in the shed</p>	<p>Ian to contact Andy Lee to ask if he would like the ladder.</p> <p>Dave to put on eBay if required</p>	<p>Ian</p> <p>Dave</p>
5.2	<p>Work Plans for May &amp; June: Fence posts (£4 each)- Some broken fences /posts do not need replacing and in some locations replacement fences are not required. Ian, Graham &amp; Peter have reassessed the number which may be in the region of 60 rather than 120</p> <p>In addition, the rectangular posts on the Fauna path need repair and this will be carried out by Peter &amp; Winston</p> <p>Iain proposed scything of Pony Wood path edges. 2 to 3 feet on the path side</p>	<p>Tuesday evening scything group to commence in July. However, to monitor beetle banks and thistles in case scything needs to commence earlier</p>	<p>Ian is writing a report on fence post replacement</p>	<p>Ian</p>
5.2.1.	<p>Willow Screen: Willow has effectively created a screen along the fauna path. All the willow cut</p>	<p>Cut willow has been appreciated by the schools and Greaves Park</p>	<p>Graham will produce a paper on the future of the willow</p>	<p>Graham</p>

	<p>this year has been used (2 schools &amp; Greaves Park). Ian proposed that work on the willow should continue.</p> <p>Sue expressed the view that providing material is not a primary objective, it is important to encourage catkins</p>		<p>screen and present it at July FFOG</p>	
6.1	<p>Maintenance &amp; HLS habitat inspections: Refer to Graham's report.</p> <p>Access from the adjoining garden in Upper Sowerholme was discussed. This access has been in place for 40 years. Sue had discussed with the owner (her neighbour) pointing out that there is open water which is unsafe for children and dogs would disturb nesting birds The gate is being repaired. Alternatively, the access will be fenced off by the householder.</p>	<p>Graham to feedback in his next report as to whether the access has been closed off.</p> <p>If not, we will offer to do this</p>	<p>Feedback from Graham as to progress</p>	<p>Graham</p>
6.1 cont.	<p>HLS inspections: Graham has been producing reports since 2012 &amp; bimonthly HLS inspections since 2013. He is no longer willing to do further HLS inspections</p> <p>Sue thanked Graham for all the work he had done over the years</p>	<p>Graham to continue with the management reports.</p> <p>HLS reports are not required under the current agreement.</p> <p>If any decisions need to be taken urgently between meetings, then the issue should be referred to Sue or Hilary.</p>		
6.2.1	<p>Flush Counts: Glenys requests that someone else takes responsibility for organizing the flush counts.</p>	<p>Future flush counts should record weather conditions</p>	<p>Steve &amp; Clio take on Flush Count organization</p>	<p>Steve Clio</p>
6.2.2	<p>Woodland Survey update. See report from Hil. Sue commented that this was very thorough. The survey will be repeated later in the summer.</p>	<p>Sue to discuss further with Hil. This is a valuable exercise and with input from others it is hoped this could result in a final report that will</p>	<p>Feedback from others requested to enable Hil to produce "final" report.</p>	<p>All  Sue/ Hil</p>

	If Hil would like to follow up on the history of the woodland, she should contact Mike Derbyshire. (Contact details from Sue)	include recommendations/proposals for future management	Sue to contact Hil re the future of these reports and how they could lead to recommendations	
7.1	Arrangements for May & June agreed.		Any further updates to contact list to be emailed to Anne who will circulate the updated version with the minutes	All/ Anne
7.2	Financial control: nil reported for the current period.			
7.3.1	Events: City Nature Challenge. This took place on a wet May 1 <sup>st</sup> with 14 attendees including members of the NLWT . * Very few moths were trapped but we spotted a red kite overflying and the pond dipping was well received.			
7.3.1 cont.	“Open Yards” organised by John Barry last weekend of June. More applicants required.			
7.3.1 cont.	Meadows Exhibition at the Storeys 9 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> May (bar & café area) detailing the Fairfield creation of meadows			
7.3.1 cont.	Tree Trail walk in Greaves Park on 26 <sup>th</sup> June, meeting at the play park at 2.30pm			
7.3.1 cont.	North Lancashire Wildlife on Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> July to look at pollinators. Will take place in Flora Fields			
7.4	Morecambe Bay Facilitation Fund. Need clarification on future funding			
7.5	Items to report from FA- Nil to report			
AOB	Ian-Volunteer Picnic:	Picnic to take place on July 23 <sup>rd</sup> . John Muir awards will be given out as these are much appreciated	Ian to contact Emma	Ian

AOB	Sue: We need to reconsider how FFOG operates. More on-site meetings as opposed to round the table meetings could be productive. E.G., each alternate FFOG meeting could be on-site focusing on specific areas at each meeting. Adhoc on-site meetings to be called when issues arise, involving the relevant people.	To be discussed at July FFOG	Sue to send proposals for consideration	Sue
AOB	Ian: No need to renew Helen Hicks first aid training			
AOB	Hilary: Defibrillator not functional as there have been delays in renewing the battery. Ian has contacted the retailer.			

Next meetings: July 7<sup>th</sup> FMH. Future organisation tbd

Addendum 7.3.1 One of the attendees - Dominic Ginger is keen to become a volunteer. He and his partner have recently moved to Sibsey St. the email address appears to be [me@domginger.org](mailto:me@domginger.org) . Ian proctor and I have tried this, and variants on it with no success. Can anyone help please?