

FFOG meeting- Decisions & Actions

Location: on-site

Date: 08.09.22

Time: 2.00 to 4.00pm

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

Apologies: David Brookes, Oliver Fulton, Sue Nieduszynski,

ITEM	ISSUE	DECISION	ACTION	OWNER
previous Minutes	Accepted. (by email) Amendment: 6.1.the costing and replacement of pony wood gate to be done along with other timber items in autumn.	All agreed		
Items relating to previous minutes				
4.3.3 cont.	Capital Grants- there is a countryside stewardship scheme (Rural Payments Agency Website) that we can apply to for funding for planting standard trees. There is no deadline but is on a first come first served basis. There is a maximum of £8.80 per tree	Capital grant funding to be pursued but not to delay the ordering of saplings to be planted this late autumn/winter.	Sue to look further into this funding.	SN ongoing
4.6	Meadows: Hil has offered to take over the Hay Meadow survey from Graeme Skelcher	Using Graeme's methodology provides a year-on year comparison so this should continue in Hay Meadow until the end of the current funding agreement in 2 years' time.	Sue to organise a meeting with Hil to discuss monitoring and the incorporation of training into this.	SN TBA after wildlife surveys & Graeme's

		To ask Hil to take on pony wood and The Margins and to train up volunteers	To inform Graeme of the change of plan from next year	reports received
5.2	Willow Screen: Dave had raised concern that some willow is very large at the base and that some should be removed	To remove some larger willow from the southern end & allow other willow to mature.	Graham to see how difficult it is to dig some larger willow out	GB To be done in autumn/winter
5.3.	Surveys: A proposal for surveys has been submitted by Peter & Hil involving training of the Wednesday volunteers & the first one took place on 6 th July. Sue would like to open this up to include a wider group without making this more onerous. Additional volunteers would need to be able to commit to attending on a Wednesday morning It was noted that bee and odonata surveys have not taken place	Widening of the volunteers involved in surveys to be explored.	Sue will discuss this further with Hil Sue to discuss with Hil as to who should be responsible for bee surveys.	SN, Hil See 4.6. defer SN To discuss with Hil
6.3	Fencing: see report (Ian). To delay replacement of fence posts until autumn when the ground is softer. Total cost approx. £250	To proceed with ordering of fence posts. Firstly, to check if any capital grant funding is available.	Sue to investigate if there are capital grants for fencing through the Stewardship scheme	SN Ongoing. Sue to consult Dave & Hilary
2.1.1	Playground- Wildflower area- (Ian) Seeds sown one year ago have not been successful in the short-term. Ian proposed repeating the process using predominantly the yellow rattle collected in the summer. Ian also described the “quick fix” method used on Willow Lane with removal of turf. Creating bare soil patches of soil 2-foot square like a mole hill could be a minimal option.	We will take the longer view and try again with yellow rattle. Remove unwanted vegetation. Remove dock using bags to prevent seed dispersal Create bare patches and sow yellow rattle. To cordon off the Wildflower area” from April to July i.e., Free access from start of school summer holidays	Organise Saturday Volunteers to scythe, trim and mow on 10 th September To contact the one person who complained about the area	IP HS

	Should we resow in Spring-in line with Pony Wood suggestion from SB?.			
2.1.1 cont.	Hedge. (Ian) The hedge is encroaching on the wildflower area. Should the hedge that has been laid adjacent to the wildflower area be extended?	Trim back the hedge (close to the substation) and remove suckers and not allow this area of bush to spread.		
2.2.1	Shed. see report (Ian). There are three lawn mowers. The toro has had costly repairs i.e. £500 over 2 years. It might be possible to raise grant money if a new mower is required (Mick) There has been division of labour, using volunteers) for mowing of the orchard to take pressure off David.	To keep all 3 lawn mowers If one breaks down, then review the decision should any of the three break down. Then to investigate funding sources for a replacement. Ian to submit invoices to claim reimbursement for petrol for the mowers. First Aid Training has been agreed (refer to Ian's' paper)	Ian to take forward the first aid training	IP
2.3.1	Orchard. A Fruit Tree Work Program has been produced by Glenys Ferguson & Keith Taylor. Thanks were expressed. The document is too large to circulate by email.	This document to be uploaded to the Fairfield website.	Hilary to provide the contact details for Julia who is redesigning the website. Then Anne to liaise with Julia Anne to pass on thanks to Keith & Glenys	HS AG AG
2.3.1 cont.	Apple Day. The remaining apples are on the higher aspects of the trees. Additional apples have been sourced.	To pick 2 or 3 apples from different varieties of orchard trees for a display. To store in a cool place until 1 st October	Apples from Orchard to be delivered to MS in labelled bags, ready for apple day	IP

2.5.1	<p>Pony Wood & extension: Wildflower area. Wildflower seed including yellow rattle was sown in the semicircle and the borders of the nearby path last September. This has not been successful.</p> <p>Should we retry to establish wildflowers? Should the area be left as scrubby grass? It was commented that the area would be a good place for an educational visit.</p>	<p>To scythe, strim and mow the grass as low as possible to remove the grass mat.</p> <p>Areas of turf can be removed by hand.</p> <p>An initial area for turf removal will be marked out and expanded if successful.</p> <p>To action this next March To sow seed in the spring</p>	<p>Organisation of a group to clear the area/some of the area of rank grass</p> <p>Seed to be ordered</p>	<p>IP</p> <p>MS?</p>
2.6	<p>Flora Field. Graham proposed that a farmer could “take a cut” and pay for the winter feed.</p> <p>Alternatively use the electric fence to protect the ponds & the beehives and let the cattle graze it off. Hilary said there would be issues regarding the security of the cattle and the graziers would be reluctant.</p>	.	Hilary will check the NE agreement	<p>HS</p> <p>NE agreement says do not top or graze.</p>
2.7.1	<p>Flora ponds: A certain % of clear water is required in the ponds. Is clearance required?</p>		To check the agreement with LWT.	<p>HS</p> <p>Only reference to cutting back refers to the south side which may need to be cut back every 6 to 8 years in order to prevent shading</p>

2.10	Carr House Meadow: The gate between Carr House meadow and the Gun Range needs repairs. This will need to be done by a contractor.	To replace one gate post and rehang the gate. The fence does not need replacing. It was noted that being able to view the area in question on the site visit facilitated the decision making.		
2.12.1	School Pond. Discussion of Graham's report. Snipe used to be prolific in this area. Reason unclear why they have reduced. It may be because there are now 2 access points or due to increased numbers of cattle. Should some areas be scythed prior to winter? North gate needs repairs and doesn't close although it could be tied with a rope Hilary requested that if gates are closed then she and Sue need to be informed so that this can be communicated to the graziers.	It has been agreed with the graziers that North gate will stay closed throughout the winter. The necessary repairs can be done by the contractor when the Carr House Meadow gate is repaired (see item 2.10) Some areas to be scythed The willow screen to stay in place until the end of winter. Willow in the Bottom end can be cut late autumn Agreed to trim the north end of the willow screen in Feb/March in order to get the benefit of catkins. .	To send an email to all those with key access to leave gates(open or closed) as they find them and if they are concerned to contact Sue or Hilary	AG
2.13	Big Meadow: discussion deferred. Heat seeking camera to be used in January to assess numbers of Jack snipe		Steve agreed to arrange for heat- seeking camera to be used in January	SB
	Maintenance report: Refer to Graham's report.			
	Volunteer reports for July & August: see reports (Ian)			

	Work Plans for September & October: see report.	No objections to these proposals were received and they are thus approved.		
	<p>Arrangements for September & October. (HS) Beehive report from Keith required.</p> <p>September- National Tree Charter day: discuss at November meeting</p> <p>October-Raising the Sluice. - in the past this has been raised or lowered depending on the amount of water in Alder Pond. It's quite a complex issue - the wetter the field, the more rush (and less grass). maybe we should take it to the November FOGG - ask for advice?</p> <p>In any event, it is better to raise or lower the sluice in consultation with Fraser.</p>			
	Financial control:			
	Events			
	Morecambe Bay Facilitation Fund.			
	Items to report from FA-			

Next meeting: November 3rd. 7.30pm to 9.30pm FMH