

FFOG meeting- Decisions & Actions

Location: FMH

Date: 10.11.22

Time: 7.30 to 9.30pm

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

Apologies: David Brookes, Oliver Fulton,

ITEM	ISSUE	DECISION	ACTION	OWNER
previous Minutes	Accepted. Graham commented that the item of raising the sluice (under arrangements) referred to the sluice in Anna's pool and not Big Meadow and when attempted in Anna's pool it had been unsuccessful	Agreed with the exception of the aforementioned item	Remove "raising the sluice" from the July arrangements	AG
	First Aid Training has been organised. Ian reported that there were 12 trainees currently undergoing on-line pre course e-learning prior to the training session organised for 2 nd December at FMH			
	Fence posts: We need to be prepared for the next round of capital grants for funding of fence posts in April 23	12-15 additional fence posts are required this winter. Purchase of these was agreed	To start looking into capital grants after Xmas	SN/HS
Actions relating to previous minutes				
2.13	Big Meadow: 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

4.1.1	Arable field: R (SN). The RPA has agreed to the topping of the field. Aubrey can do this imminently, weather dependent. The topping will be left rather than taken away. Aubrey also to cut the margin parallel to Aldcliffe Road where there is a lot of knapweed growing. Sue has staked out the bird seed margins in preparation and had noticed that there was very little seed growth present.			
4.1.2	Sightings board & bird feeding station: the station & board are up & running. There has been an increase in stock doves.	.	David to purchase water soluble pens and invoice the FA	DE
4.3.1	Electric Fence: R (RG). Rick has assembled a team of five people to assist with the electric fence. Purchase of another battery and controller with accessories was proposed. When both calves and cattle are in big meadow there are two areas that need protecting.	Purchase of a second battery was agreed.	Rick will use the electric fence to close off the bund at Alder Pond (creating a horseshoe shape) to prevent cattle access.	RG
4.3.3.	Big Meadow: Raising the Sluice: HS has had a discussion with Fraser. Previously the water levels have been managed to get a balance between dampness in the rushy area needed for snipe, to manage the condition of the grassy areas for grazing, to enable work in clearing rush & also to protect the bund of Alder Pond. As there is a reduced herd size of only 7 cattle the condition of the grazing area is less of an issue and the bund is now secure. GB placed a sample of turf from Big Meadow on the table to demonstrate the mosaic of moss and grass which is the ideal habitat for snipe who feed on the insect larva. GB stressed that this is a special environment that needs protecting and could be damaged by altering the sluice. The rush is expanding to the north & South and GB proposed that this should be encouraged. MS said the that the legal agreement included grazing rights. HS thought in practice there would not be an issue because of the reduced cattle numbers.	To encourage the further spread of soft rush. The NE agreement however limits the rush to 40% of the field (Agreement implies this is of all the HK10 fields taken together) If the water table does become an issue, then all factors will be considered in any decision making. To promote the area and research into what causes this area to be so successful.	To contact Lancaster University to see if there are students interested in research of the area Chloe to liaise with Glenys over uploading flush count numbers to dropbox	RG CB

	Most recent flush count was 42.			
4.4.1	Orchard. Storage of The Fruit Tree Work Program produced by Glenys Ferguson & Keith Taylor was discussed.	The document will go on dropbox where it can be updated as required. It will be referenced on the FA website	Hilary will contact Glenys and ask her to upload onto dropbox Anne to contact Julia to action the website reference.	HS AG
5.1	Maintenance: R (GB). Graham proposed that the gate to the hay meadow be closed to prevent cattle access and the introduction of nutrients. Sue said the phosphorus locked into the clay was the limiting factor. Hilary stated that the grazier's agreement allowed access until 1 st April.	It was accepted that there were different views on this issue and advice needs to be sought.	Glen Swainson to be asked for advice	SN
5.2	Progress with surveys: R (SN). This report is notes of the meeting between SN, HS & Hil. Graeme Skelcher's survey not yet received Breeding birds survey from Dan Haywood not yet received Peter & Hil's butterfly report lists butterfly by areas 1-4. The numbers refer to transects in the map in last year's report CB's excel report appeared to be corrupted There was discussion around surveys and volunteers, once trained, using a specified route to do the survey when weather conditions were favourable. DE, SB & CG are all trained in doing surveys but were not involved this year. They would be willing to do in future years. CW queried which ponds had been surveyed. CW and GB could participate in future pond surveys. CW has pond survey equipment that could be used. Phil Hendry has been too busy to do the odonata survey. Pollinator's survey: used an App via smartphone and results go on a national database.	Hil to take over the woodland survey. Graeme to continue with meadow & margins surveys. Butterfly survey (PT/Hil). The key to the numbered areas should be an integral part of the current year's report Small mammal survey should be annual. The traps could be put out on a Wednesday before the second Saturday when they would be collected. To run another training day for the pollinators survey next summer and to be advertised more widely.	Sue will chase up Graeme's report Steve & Clio to chase up Dan's survey Sue to speak to Hil to obtain the word.doc containing the transects and use this to amend this year's report. Also, to discuss that trained volunteers could independently survey in favourable weather Mammal surveys to be discussed with Hil Sue to resend CB's report Chris to discuss pond surveys with Hil.	SN SB/CG SN CW or SN SN CW

		Bat monitoring: Organise a bat walk for next September. More bat detectors required. To inspect the state of the bat boxes (SEE INFO IN EMAIL)	Anne to send all surveys to Julia to go on website	AG
6.1	<p>Volunteer reports: (R Ian)</p> <p>Sewing of yellow rattle in the playground was very hard work. The Pony wood area would be more difficult and so the plan is to strim, mow and remove square patches of turf in spring. Tick removers in first aid boxes have been found.</p> <p>Emergency access to the reserve for the ambulance service is currently identified by postcode. What3words would provide a more precise location. AG followed this up with NW ambulance service who have requested a simple map of the reserve clearly showing access points identified by both postcode & what3 words.</p>	<p>Agreement that an online map would be produced for emergency service access with access points marked with both postcode & What3words. Hilary thought Julia would be able to do this.</p>	<p>Ian will provide a list of access points with postcode and What3words. Chris to doublecheck What3words.</p> <p>Hilary will contact Julia re map</p>	<p>IP CW HS</p>
6.2	<p>Work plans: (R IP) Ian proposed that the whole, rather than half, of the south hedge in Westfield should be laid this winter. This would include a replacement fence which could be more easily made taut than half a fence.</p> <p>SN had discussed trees within hedges with Glen Swainson who advised that existing standards could be left but new ones should not be planted.</p> <p>Ian will order the saplings from Cumbria Tree Growers shortly. They have been difficult to contact.</p> <p>HS clarified that it is just the <u>one</u> gate in Carr House meadow that needs a replacement gate post, and this is the one next to the Gun Range.</p> <p>GB- the southern end of the willow screen to be trimmed before Xmas as previously agreed. GB proposed coppicing 4 to 5 stands of hazel in the west side of Pony Wood to provide fence posts.</p>	Agreed.		
7.1	Arrangements for November & December.		Annual review of contacts list	SN

7.2	Financial control: Aubrey will charge approx. £250 for topping the arable field.			
7.3.2.	Events: Glen Swainson lecture 17 th November 7.30 pm FMH		To send out a reminder email	HS
7.5	Items to report from FA: none			
7.6	Items to report from trustees: NE agreement is now until 2028. If other funding streams become available before then we are entitled to pull out. SN has investigated two other possible sources of income but neither has been fruitful.			

Next meeting: January 12th, 2023. 7.30pm to 9.30pm FMH