

**FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS OF COCKINGTON COUNTRY PARK  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE LINHAY VISITORS' CENTRE  
COCKINGTON ON MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018**

**PRESENT:** Andy Baker, Pauline Baker, Neil Stanlake (Chair), Robin Emdon (Vice Chair), Jill Read (Membership Secretary), John Read, Hannah Worthington (Green Heart Project), Damien Offer (Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust), Rita Jackson, Bob Tremayne, Gary Collins, Carol Collins, Olwyn Barker, Trevor Barker, Barry Williams, Cllr Nicole Amil, Margaret Brandsford, Mary Phillips (Minute Secretary)

**APOLOGIES:** Marge Pye, Margaret Pemberton, Chris Fransella  
Chair welcomed all in attendance.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 2018**

**Comments Box**

Gary Collins remarked that he had received no communication regarding the making of a comments box. Hannah Worthington stated that this was "on the back burner".

**Fish in Lakes**

Damien Offer explained that planting was the next stage of the Lakes project. Fish won't be introduced until next year.

**Car Parking**

It has still not been established who has a legitimate right to park near the church. It appears that regular church goers respect the Park and leave their cars parked reasonably on the prepared ground. However, with the introduction of multiple christenings, there are more cars than space, so cars spill on to the grass which when wet churn up mud.

An informal survey of Facebook members of this group carried out by Robin Emdon indicated that the majority would prefer an outright ban on vehicles in the Park.

**Gamekeepers Cottage**

RE raised the matter of sympathetic planting around the cottage to alleviate the stark look. DO said plans for low maintenance shrub planting will go ahead first.

**Coppicing**

HW outlined the Hazel Coppicing work being undertaken in Peoples Wood. She explained that this is standard good practice, benefitting invertebrates, hare, deer and a Swedish log pile has been established. DO went into detail about the longevity of trees. Because the estate had been largely neglected many trees had died and become unsafe.

**Membership Secretary's Report**

JR reported that there are 90 members on her list who she regularly sends notices to. RE reported that the new look Facebook group has 951 members from all over the world. It's a great place to share vintage photos, memories and contemporary issues. He thanked LTV Katie for her help. RE stressed that the Facebook page is for Cockington Park related issues only. The manager of The Drum has joined the group and posts encouraging comments, wanting to be connected with CCP in any way he could.

### **Officer Expenses**

DO stated that Officers should not be out of pocket, following a question by the Secretary regarding printing.

### **Volunteers Report**

HW agreed to present a regular Volunteers Report to the Group Meetings.

### **Picnic in the Park**

RE said there had been interest on Facebook for an event as a chance to meet other members. A popular suggestion was for a picnic in the Park. DO said this would need careful organising, especially in regard to H and S legislation. HW suggested that she may be able to link another event on the same day. The Trust is involved with a Recording Memories initiative, encouraging youngsters to engage with older people. HW thought the two events could happen on the same day. A Steering Committee should be set up and pay due regard to other fixtures which may be planned.

### **Dog Day**

HW asked for volunteers to help with this event on 19<sup>th</sup> August in the Arboretum.

### **Younger Volunteers**

Barry made a plea for launching some kind of drive to encourage recruitment of younger volunteers. The demographic of Volunteers at the moment is heavily weighted towards the late sixties. As people's mobility and health can suddenly change, Barry urged the group to find a solution. A look at evening or weekend volunteering may be one solution.

John and Jill Read left the meeting for another commitment.

### **Offer of 45 Trees**

NS has had an offer of 45 trees from a local Rotary Club.

DO had to decline the kind offer as there was no room for more trees.

### **Maintenance**

GC suggested a snagging list for work which needs to be done in the Park.

DO gave permission for GC, NS and one other to clean the gullies.

### **Drum Inn Sign**

RE outlined the provenance of the sign, which has now been located in a poor state of repair. The Manager Kez has undertaken to take steps to either restore or replicate.

### **Defibrillator**

A request was made once again for a Defibrillator. Discussion took place about raising funds and possible sites to place one.

### **Notice Board**

MR raised concern about the state of the notice board at Higher Lodge. It was very damp, prone to condensation and the only one in the Park. HW announced that 3 new notice boards were in the process of purchase. Until such time they were available GC, Barry and NS offered to erect a notice board which was in storage and had been refurbished by GC.

### **Any Other Business**

HW announced a links with education initiative at the VC later on in March.

She also promoted the new Thursday gardening group with focus on lighter tasks, at the Park and Occombe Farm respectively.

A suggestion was made to promote events via Breeze, the local radio station.

Rita asked whether the Trumper was being well used. HW assured her it was a useful addition to the VC.

There being no further business the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.

**Date and time of next meeting: 11 June 2018 at 6.30 pm**