

FFOG meeting- Decisions & Actions

Location: Zoom

Date: 09.09.21

Time: 7.30 TO 9.30 PM

Attendees Sue Nieduszynski (chair), Hilary Short, Mick Short, Ian Proctor, Peter Tilley, Graham Brandwood, Steve Bullen, Clio Graham, Anne Greenwood

Apologies David Elliott

ITEM	ISSUE	DECISION	ACTION	OWNER
Previous Minutes	Correction: Item 3.7 meeting with Phil Reddell from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust took place on the reserve, not at Heysham		Remove “At Heysham” from the minutes of 10 th June	Sue
Matters Arising	Hilary had spoken to Simon re borrowing the Trailer. Ian is of the opinion it is adapted for a cycle The success of the volunteer’s picnic was noted	Ian will follow up if required Volunteers Picnic should become an annual event	Convey thanks to Emma and request an annual picnic to be organized	Hilary
4.1.2	Cutting of Margins. Is a second cut required?	To be done according to need		

4.1.2 cont	Beetle banks		To be inspected for activity	Chris
4.1.3	LDBS feeding station: Sue has 100 kg bird food donated by RSPB (damaged bags)		Dan Heywood will collect and scatter in the margins before the tables go up.	Sue/Dan
4.1.3 cont	Dan Haywood has offered to give a short talk via zoom on October 21 st , Thursday evening, describing last year's feeding station activity with photos	To open this meeting to whole membership as an event.	Sue will send an email to Hilary regarding this- to be distributed to the membership	Sue/Hilary
4.1.3 cont.	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
4.2.1	Hedge survey was not completed this year due to illness	Defer until next year		
4.2.2	Planting winter 2021-22. Hilary has made a deal with the Woodlands Trust for the supply of 1000 hedge saplings for no cost. Ian has ordered 350 cell-grown saplings from Cheviot Trees (more diversity in this order) for £626		2 planting days to be organized. (Cheviot delivery 5 th Nov)	Ian
4.3/ 6.4	Orchard -southern end. Letter from neighbour requesting one of the trees to be reduced in height. Glenys & Keith have produced an orchard report proposing changes to this part of the orchard.	Ian proposed that the Orchard report required time for consideration	Glenys & Keith to be thanked for the report. Ian will arrange an onsite meeting with a small group involving the authors, himself, Hilary	Ian

			& others who are interested.	
4.4.1	Big Meadow: rush cutting and liming. There was a machine cut of the rush early July. There has been regrowth of the rush. Cutting/grazing leaves the root system intact. Contractor reported more grass in new growth. Noted that rush cover does not exceed 40% of area	Regrowth to be grazed off. Lime applications on a regular basis over a period of years are required.	Peter to forward details of lime supplied in 25kg quantities. Lime application to be diaried for April 22	Peter/Sue
4.4.2	Upper Sowerholme channel clearance. Lancashire Wildlife Trust have provided a quote for machine clearance and for strengthening the bund on Alder Pond	Price agreed with Steve Cowell, contractor.	Volunteers to cut the reeds in the area leading up to the Upper Sowerholme pond prior to the works	Ian/Graham
4.4.3	New ponds: LWT & graziers have agreed to two ponds in West Field with a pipe linking them and a bund between that is wide enough for the cattle to cross. The pond near Aldcliffe will be fenced. by LWT There will be an additional pond in Lower Sowerholme to the west of the existing one. LWT will fence these ponds.			
4.5	Hay Meadows. In exchange for yellow rattle seed, Sue will receive a delivery of later flowering seed (hawkbit, cat's ear, clover & vetches) and 25 plugs		Sue, Steve and Clio will carry out the planting and sowing.	Sue, Steve, Clio
4.6	Grazing: Concern was expressed on the extent to which the cattle have grazed down the hay meadow and damage to the pond surrounds. The amount of hay is decreasing over years & Ian proposed that late summer grazing would be	Cattle can graze in Carr House meadow in September after seed has been scattered. Sue to be informed if cattle are in Hay Meadow	Fraser to be informed that cattle can go into Carr House Meadow	Sue

	<p>preferable to hay cutting and would be more beneficial to wildlife.</p> <p>Fraser will be provided with 15 bales of hay. The money will be invoiced to the FA.</p> <p>Graham expressed concern about the FA buying hay for the graziers as the hay provided resulted from the management of the hay meadow and was not an entitlement.</p> <p>Mick disagreed, pointing out that the supplement we receive for the White Park was originally largely spent on haymaking, which supplied winter feed. As we are not spending on haymaking it is reasonable to supply hay.</p> <p>Another derogation will be required next year.</p> <p>Hilary has contacted Dave re this</p>	and she will liaise with Fraser.	Derogation to be requested for grazing off the Hay Meadow	Dave
4.6. cont	<p>Meeting with Robin re grazing. Hilary provided a report. Herd will have an excess of 2.9 livestock units if Fraser doesn't send any more cows to market. Fraser has indicated that 14 cattle will be sold this winter.</p> <p>Ian and Graham expressed concern at the size of the herd which is currently 30</p>	Decision to defer the discussion re herd size to an alternative meeting.	If requested, Sue will distribute information on the Natural England agreement on livestock units and what we understand from the graziers' perspective	Sue
4.7	<p>Electric fence. Robin approved. Fraser was less enthusiastic. Peter provided a report. The equipment could be used in different areas of the reserve as the cattle become habituated to the deterrent of an electric fence even when subsequently removed for a time. Cost in the region of £600</p> <p>Ian highlighted that the provision of the saplings from Woodlands Trust of 1000 saplings at no cost</p>	Agreed	More details with costing to be provided.	Peter

	was dependent on protecting the saplings from damage by the cattle			
5	Volunteer activities. Ian provided a report for winter tasks		Emma and Graham to be thanked for standing in during Ian's absence Council to be contacted re clearing of long pads path	Ian Sue
5 cont	In the area between Lower Sowerholme and the Flora Field a small copse has been created. Oliver was asked to name the area	Oliver suggested the name of Abigail Rigby. She had donated the fields to the prisoners		
6.2	Maintenance & HLS habitat inspections. Graham reported an issue with water retention in the Flora ponds particularly one and two. It may be helpful to stop the flow between ponds two & three	To investigate & rectify the issue of water retention and flow between ponds	To contact the Wildlife Trust. Peter will contact Pam	Peter/Graham
6.4 (also see 4.3)	Orchard report: areas around the legs of benches in the playground and Fauna footpath are rotting.		To organise strimming around the legs of benches in these areas	Ian
6.5	Review meeting: Sue proposed taking the headings from the Natural England Agreement. Further discussion on whether to review by area or by habitat	Meeting to be face to face at the Friends meeting House in February.	People to put their names forward for the different areas. Sue to put together a brief proposal.	Sue
7.2	Financial control: Saplings (Cheviot Trees) - £626 Work in Upper Sowerhome, and Alder Pond (LWT) - £1992 Electric fence (£650 est), Repair of Toro mower £250 est			

	Repairs to shed £1440			
AOB	Following a meeting at Gate Barrows Natural England nature reserve, Glen Swainson, the manager, had offered to visit Fairfield reserve and provide advice.	A visit from Glen would be useful	Oliver to write a report of the learning points of the meeting. Anne will follow up with Oliver.	Anne
AOB	Padlocks have been incorrectly applied to gates on several occasions. This could cause a major insurance cost.		Ian to send out 2 photographs, one correct and one incorrect, to those with field access	Ian

Next meeting 7.30 pm Thursday November 4th 2021 via zoom