

Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG) Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday 5th February 2014, from 7 pm 9 pm, at the Downen residence

Present: Shlomo, Lorraine, Josh, Ian and Richard

Rushpool update

Rich has met with Sherwood Forest Trust's (SFT's) Andy Hollis and others for a site visit. E-mail messages are being exchanged, and these now include Helen. Andy H is responsible for managing the work on behalf of SFT, including liaising with Mansfield District Council (MDC) and with Nottinghamshire county Council (NCC), who are funding the work. A meeting is being organised that will produce a revised project / site management plan. Rich has ambitions for increased ecological surveying and recording of wildlife on the Rushpool site. Helen can be expected to continue to help with this. Ian may be able to help with soil sampling. There will also be some training opportunities arising from the Rushpool project.

Action: Rich to keep Shlomo informed so Shlomo can update FTNCG members / supporters.

Spa Ponds Appeal / Spa Ponds Legal Matters update

Sufficient funds have been raised and sufficient fresh pledges have been received to proceed with the purchase, although we will require further funds to pay for legal expenses, etc., and we will of course need money to pay for improvement work to be carried out. There is no chance of the vendor dropping the claw back clause, despite our recent request. This would have made life simpler and would have reduced our legal expenses, but would have increased the legal costs for the vendor.

Actions: Shlomo to inform our solicitor of vendor's decision re: retaining the claw back clause. Shlomo to contact Forestry Commission re: renewal, access, keys for Rich and Ian.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust Meeting update

The meeting that had been tentatively planned for the Forest Town Welfare on Friday 7th February has been replaced by a meeting at the NWT Office in Nottingham on Thursday afternoon 13th February, shortly before the NWT Sites Committee meeting. FTNCG's Committee agreed that in the interim we needed an amended lease arrangement that at least had the correct landowner's name (FTNCG) and site size (11.51 acres instead of 16.5). This should satisfy all legal requirements in the short term, until a more detailed arrangement can be agreed between FTNCG and NWT. Shlomo expects Charles Langtree to provide an example of an agreement to act as a template for Spa Ponds.

Action: Shlomo to meet with NWT's Charles Langtree to discuss amending the lease, etc.

NottsBAG Event on Wednesday 5th March 2014 at Brackenhurst Campus

Forms for Rich, Lorraine, Josh and Shlomo have been completed and will be accompanied by a cheque for £20 (not from FTNCG) and sent to Nottinghamshire County Council.

Action: Shlomo to make FTNCG members and supporters aware of the opportunity.

Preparations for FTNCG General Meeting (5th March 2014) Spa Ponds update

- General Meeting required to seek endorsement for Constitutional changes and plans to pursue charitable status – both of which will require advance notice and a vote.
- March's FTNCG meeting will also include updates on Spa Ponds (including the Appeal, toad count) and Rushpool, with the tour of our website and Facebook page rescheduled for April.

Any other business

- Shlomo reported back from the Rufford-Clipstone Landowners Meeting that he had attended on behalf of FTNCG. The primary focus of the meeting was efforts to stop off-road biking in the area which includes Spa Ponds.
- Rich is gathering information about local water bodies to pass on to Chris Jackson.
- Ian and Shlomo are working on the Stinting Lane Hedge Survey project, due to restart when lighter in the evenings (after clocks change at the end of March).
- The emerging Clipstone Park Study Group was also discussed.