

Minutes of the Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG) Trustees (Virtual) Meeting, Wednesday evening 19th May 2021

Present: Shlomo, Jez, Josh, Mark, Phil, Lorraine, and Dennis

Apologies: Samantha, and Alan

The Chair welcomed Trustees and explained that as the meeting was being held virtually, Alan was unable to attend. Samantha sent her apologies as there was a clash with her new job.

The Trustees present unanimously welcomed Samantha, in absentia, as a new FTNCG Trustee. The role of Trustees is to act as custodians of the charity and to be responsible for ensuring that the charity fulfils the charitable purpose (object) of promoting for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in and around Forest Town. In this regard, it was agreed that it was important both that the Group raised funds and that those funds were spent fulfilling the Charity's purpose.

A range of discussions took place, with Trustees updating fellow Trustees regarding recent activities. Plans and projects were considered, in particular the Keep the Forest Buzzing pollinator project and the Spawn on the Maun River narrowing project. Trustees expressed gratitude to Rob Martyr (Keep Britain Tidy) for his support with these projects, and the volunteer support provided (and to be provided) by both the Mansfield Building Society and the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

These discussions and updates gave rise to a series of actions, including:

- Shlomo agreed to follow up on Les' (WatersideCare) investigations into First Aid training, including refresher courses. Shlomo reported that the courses currently being promoted were not relevant to nature conservation and instead were targeting more conventional workplaces.
- Shlomo will work with Rob to ensure everything necessary is in place to deliver the Spawn on the Maun project at the end of July, including arrangements to bring 48 brushwood bundles (2m x 0.3m) and 144 stake (1.2m 1/4 cut chestnut) to Packman's Bridge on Wednesday 28th July to be ready for installation on the following days.

Note: Subsequent to the Trustees Meeting Jez and Phil agreed to walk a potential route to ensure it would be passable in a tractor with a trailer.

- Phil kindly offered to head up a volunteering session for Portland College staff – focussing on installing two stands to house Keep the Forest Buzzing posters, and on conducting insect surveys to provide baseline data regarding pollinators

– as part of the forthcoming Saturday 29th May Spa Ponds Work and Hedgerow Surveying Session.

- Note: Subsequent to the Trustees Meeting Lorraine offered to lead volunteers from the Church who also joined us on the 29th May.
- Mark volunteered to reach out to Forestry England to learn about their management plans.

Note: Subsequent to the Trustees Meeting Mark received a reply from Val Coulton (Forester – Sherwood South), who explained that: “With regard to the timber harvesting in Garibaldi Plantation, we work these woodlands on a 5 year cycle, and unless there are specific reasons such as disease or damage from weather events, we would therefore be looking to further thin the plantations in 2024 – 25”.

- Mark agreed to continue to work with Andy Hollis and with fellow FTNCG volunteers to survey the trees at Spa Ponds. Mark noted how many changes there have been on site since his previous tree surveying.
- Additionally, Mark offered to contact Mansfield District Council (MDC) regarding the Section 106 Agreement associated with the development opposite the Clipstone Drive entrance to Spa Ponds.

Note: In this regard, the reply Mark received from MDC’s Principal Planning Officer (Ray Deans) was as follows: “The S106 has not been issued to date and the application will not be granted approval until the S106 has been signed and sealed. All members who are party to the legal agreement will receive a draft S106 prior to its issue. I will speak with the legal team and let them know that you have enquired regarding the above site, I will contact you once I have received a response from the solicitors as to who is actually dealing with the case”.

- Shlomo shared his intention to work with MDC, the police, nearby landowners, the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, and others to ensure Spa Ponds is included in any emerging Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) covering the former Rufford Colliery and environs.

Trustees agreed that the FTNCG Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held virtually on Wednesday evening 7th July, from 7PM. Trustees unanimously approved the accounts, including endorsing the suggested Reserves Policy. Phil thanked Josh for his work on the Accounts that will be included in FTNCG’s Report & Accounts, noting the professional way Josh presents the charity’s financial information.