

Minutes from the Forest Town Nature Conservation Group Trustees Meeting, Friday 12th July 2024 at the Downen Residence

Present: Alan (who left early), Sam, Josh, Shlomo, Lorraine, & Phil
Apologies: Dennis and Mark



Registered Charity No. 1157957

1. Trustees approved the minutes of the 13th June 2023 Trustees Meeting and the 2023 AGM (both sets of draft minutes had been circulated to Trustees in advance of the meeting).
2. Trustees went through each page of the draft 2024 Report and Accounts which had been circulated to Trustees in advance of the meeting, and with one correction the 2024 Report and Accounts were approved unanimously (including through conversations with Dennis in advance of the meeting and Mark shortly following the meeting).
3. All current Trustees confirmed their willingness to stay on in their respective current roles.
4. Two potential dates for the virtual AGM were considered, including Sunday 4th August from Noon and Friday 2nd August from 4pm. Trustees are asked to state their preference.
5. Shlomo provided an update on recent balsam pulling (on the islands and along the Maun) carried out by EMEC and on plans for EMEC to return to the site (probably in November) to undertake sycamore removal, with this work organised through the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's Martyn Joynt and understood to be paid for from the Severn Trent Community Fund.
6. Updates from Trustees included Phil confirming that he has begun repairing the sign, Sam requesting more water quality testing chemicals, Sam and Phil both recently attended First Aid training, Josh who is working on a script for September's heritage tour of Spa Ponds (see below), Alan passing on his intention to resume wardening (accompanying Sue for some of her daily walks), and Dennis who is continuing to take photos of Spa Ponds including some that are part of the ongoing 'then and now' photographs project – see: <https://www.foresttown.net/index.php/spa-ponds/history-of-spa-ponds/then-and-now/>
7. Future activities:
 - Bridleway strimming with Andy Hollis (Saturday 17th August)
 - Heritage Open Day Tour of Spa Ponds (Saturday 14th September)
 - Wednesday sessions with Andy (16th October, 13th November, and 11th December)
 - A public meeting with a speaker (date and venue to be arranged)
8. Any other business / actions
 - Lorraine thanked Sam for heading up work sessions, noting that the rhythm of weekday sessions with Andy followed by Saturday sessions with Sam worked well.
 - Phil praised Josh for his ongoing researching and telling of the history of Spa Ponds.
 - Shlomo thanked Phil for his work repairing the signage.
 - Phil will investigate whether relevant EduSkills First Aid training would be on offer.
 - Shlomo will order more water quality testing chemicals.
 - Sam to let Shlomo know the Saturdays she would be able to head up sessions in October, November and December.
 - Shlomo and Josh to publicise the Heritage Open Day Tour of Spa Ponds.
 - Trustees to let Shlomo know their preferred date for the virtual AGM.