



Friends of Gilcrest Wood and Meadow

Annual General Meeting

6.30pm, Wednesday 20th April 2016, Fulwood Old Chapel, Whiteley Lane, Fulwood

MINUTES

Present:

Management Committee - Teo Greenstreet (Chair), Debbie Siva-Jothy (Secretary), Richard McQuinn (Treasurer), Vanessa Roberts, James Ellwood, Judy Beckingham

Members – Fran Allen, Sue Alston, Mary Axelby, Graham Axelby, Kath Broomhead, Amanda Davey, Helen Parker, Cath Richardson, Jenny Sewell, Rowena Wilson

Apologies – none received

Teo Greenstreet (Chair), welcomed the Friends of Group and formally opened the AGM at 6.35pm.

Teo Greenstreet began the meeting by confirming approval of the minutes of the 2015 AGM held 22nd April 2015, which were available to see on the FoGWaM website www.fogwam.org .

1) Friends of Gilcrest Wood and Meadow Activity report 2015- 16

Friends of Gilcrest Wood and Meadow (FoGWaM) was constituted at a public meeting on April 17th 2013 with the aim “to offer sympathetic care, conserve and encourage natural flora and fauna and generally improve the wild space of Gilcrest Wood and Meadow that lies between Crimicar Lane, Castlewood Road/Drive and Canterbury Crescent and Hallamshire Drive. In 2014 the Meadow area was recognised as an Urban Nature Park.

On site Activity:

Over 10 work days, a family day, and a BBQ, an estimated 300 people participated; mix of ages including approx 15% children, over 50% women. The work days were ably lead by Sheffield City Council ranger Chris Roberts.

Activity Highlights:

1. New steps to the nursery end of the path establishing a more accessible route.
2. 50 shrubs planted, donated by CVO energy Free Trees for All:
 - 10xwayfairing,
 - 10xGuelder Rose,
 - 10x Spindleberry,
 - 10xDogwood,
 - 10x Goat willow
3. 4 donated Trees planted: Birch and willow.
4. Ongoing litter clearance
5. installation of handrail to the side of Castlewood Flats and replacement of footpath sign by the garages.
6. Alternative Path through bog
7. Continued Opening light to Bilberry area and removal of Leylandii:
8. Grass cutting regime established in egg timer shape.
9. encouraging diversity by clearing Holly and Leylandii beyond the 'lagoon' and the top of the nursery steps.
10. Dry stone wall maintenance ongoing
11. 11 bird boxes were checked, with 7 nested.

Organisation activity:

Management plans: The initiating Public Meeting in April 2013 identified a list of 15 items of possible activity. These were reviewed at the AGM of 30th April 2014 and a Management Plan adopted. Over the year these have been considered either in relation to the management proposals of the survey, through liaison on site with Council ranger and through meetings with the officer with overall responsibility for the site John Gilpin (SCC Woodlands Officer) and in accordance with the Biodiversity survey.

Fundraising: FoGWaM were successful in raising £393 from the SCC Community Ward Pot to fund insurance costs, contribute to seeds, plug plants and safety equipment. FoGWaM has established policy and procedures for safeguarding young and vulnerable people and risk assessment for proposed activity. It has taken out insurance through CVS. All work day activity has taken place under leadership and insurance of SCC rangers service.

We continue to developed the FOGWAM web site <http://www.fogwam.org/>

Other activity:

FoGWaM has monitored site activity for planning application 13/00155/FUI submitted by Syvil's to develop 14 houses on Canterbury Crescent backing onto the site, to ensure that the development does not have any negative short or long-term impact on the Wood and Meadow.

- monitoring current TPOs – evidencing removal of trees in previous development on Canterbury Crescent.

- agreeing solutions for drainage of surface water remain ongoing issues: responded to planning Officer regarding email exchange proposing an alternative approach involving soak away. No response from the officer.

Investigating developing more detailed mapping via Anne Tetley, GI Strategy Officer Suggesting using the OpenSource free Quantum GIS software which is very popular and compatible with ArcGIS, council software. Any data you create or amend can be re imported into the corporate database to share our data.

Particular thanks and appreciation goes to Council Ranger Chris Roberts for his leadership on workdays, to all those who have been involved over the year in such enjoyable and valuable activity and finally my appreciation to the members of the management Committee for making progress of FoGWaM possible.

Teo Greenstreet, Chair 20th April 2016

The report was proposed by Teo Greenstreet, seconded by Graham Axelby and approved by the members.

Subsequent to the approval of the Activity Report, the following issues were raised from the floor:

- Would it be possible to start an old photo collection, requesting local residents to send any images they are willing to have shared on the website?
- In several areas of the woods, garden waste is once again accumulating. This may need to be surveyed with the ranger to determine if a council letter to residents is again required
- Amanda Davey gave formal thanks to Chris Roberts for assisting with the fallen Willow on her fence

2) Financial Report

Richard McQuinn (Treasurer) confirmed that spending of the group continued to be minimal, presenting a summary of the cashbook and accounts, highlighting the following:

Opening Balance:	£476.52
Grant received (Sheffield City Council SW Sector):	£393.10
Spend:	£338.81
Year end Balance:	£530.81

As in previous years, the only source of income had been the Ward Pot, and the main spend, insurance. He also confirmed all cheques paid were signed by two officers.

Graham Axelby queried the nil spend on the Sorby Natural History Society. This had been for a prior year subscription which was not renewed.

Approval of the report on finances was proposed by Richard McQuinn and seconded by Helen Parker.

3) Election of Management Committee.

Teo stated that the Management Committee were required to hold a minimum of 4 meetings a year and during the year the committee had met up to 10 times.

Teo Greenstreet, Debbie Siva-Jothy, Richard McQuinn, Vanessa Roberts and Judith Beckingham had put their names forward for re-election. James Ellwood, having joined the committee through the year, formally requested election. Jon Holsgrove, having moved away from the area, had stepped down from the Committee during the year. All members and the new member were duly proposed for **re-election by Teo Greenstreet and seconded by Mary Axelby.**

Graham Axelby, Mary Axelby and Fran Allen offered their assistance for leaflet drops.

Teo formally noted thanks to Richard for his continued support with the leaflet production.

4) The Management Plan

With many items on the original Management plan completed, Teo gave a brief update before moving on to consider ideas for the next year.

Original Plan Target Note	Action	Status
1 & 2 Wet Area	Reduce mowing/ plant wetland plants	√ complete
3&4 Oaks	Cutback bramble/holly Potential seating?	√ Agreed no seating
5 oak dominated Woodland	path improvement to make more accessible	√
6&8 bilberries	clear shading canopy	√ ongoing
7 fallen Ash	no action	no action
8 wall of Holly	clear taller vegetation	√ complete
10 Knotweed	spray	√ Main patch now clear, secondary site treatment commenced
11 Grassland	hourglass mowing regime	established, ongoing review
*12 Plantation	selected thinning of Sycamore, Laurel, Bramble to drip line	partial thinning on 5yr cycle commenced
13 Gilcrest Wood	Footpath review to safeguard animals Opening canopy at East end. erected	no footpaths added, deterred use of path Canopy not opened. 11 birdboxes
14 Sustainable Drainage	plan agreed. SCC confirm culvert flow to Crimicar Lane	flow not confirmed
15 Boundary Trees	Tree Protection	ongoing monitoring
16 Fruit Trees	Clear area for fruit Tree planting	√ complete
17 Entrance Improvement	Bollards, seed planting, notice board	√ complete

Activities subsequently added to Management Plan in 2014-15

Activity

1. Boundary wall improvements and Ongoing wall repair along the N boundary
This would require a Contractor to repair wall at height and is a Council responsibility – No action to date. This wall is retaining Syvil land. Sue Alston suggested a letter from the council to Syvil to inform it is his responsibility to repair/maintain.
2. Meadow drainage or boardwalk, major drainage project of central very wet area
This project was shelved in favour of rerouting a pathway through the drier plantation area.

3. Family Days BBQ/Harvest event

An Autumn 2015 event was held and a BBQ and picnic planned for 2016

4. Handrail erection at the Steps adjacent to Castlewood Ct flats

Completed by the council

5. Boundary survey -Detailed survey of full site boundary, adding footpaths and drainage

Ongoing. The suggestion to investigate software to assist with this was made- Committee to investigate.

6. Clearance of leaf mould -Clear path behind Castlewood flats' garages

Reviewed and determined to be the responsibility of the residents of the flats and not FoGWaM

7. Bird Survey With assistance of Sheffield University Birdwatching Society

Initial Birdwatching event successful – future events being considered

New ideas for 2015-16

1. To create a pond in the area of the Lagoon which would be planted with wetland species. This area will become a pond if the Syvil development proceeds.
2. To investigate the possibility of erecting bat boxes
3. To continue with planting to better define the edges of the meadow area to be mowed
4. To erect a bench at the top of the new steps amongst the bluebells
5. To continue improvement work to the path behind the nursery which remains slippery much of the year
6. To consider residents security when clearing holly

Teo Greenstreet proposed that the additions/new ideas for the Management Plan be adopted, this was seconded by Helen Parker.

5) Any other business

The dates for future Work days were announced as:

Next events:

May - Sunday 1st

June - Sunday 5th work day 10 – 1 picnic 12.30 – 2.30

July 10th

September 11th Workday 10 – 1 BBQ 12.30 – 2.30

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 19.51.