

2018 Minutes Rugby Group WWT 6th Feb AGM

Present Phil Parr, PP; Ray Hodges, RH; Steve Wright, SW; Karl Curtis, KC; Neville Weston, NW; Jan Elliott, JE; Malcolm Hall, MH; Carl Jones, CJ; Richard Beswick, RB; Chris Godding, CG; Ken Monk, KM; Brian Wooton, BW; Jackie Clapham, JC; Margaret Richards, MR.

Apologies Derek Lill, Cyril Cleaver, Tony Landless, Peter Hanby, Jon Bourne

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| 1. Treasurer's Report. | 7. Brushcutter Maintenance. |
| 2. Reports from the Reserves. | 8. Creation of a wet area in field 3 Swift Valley. |
| 3. Website | 9. Development of Newbold Quarry. |
| 4. Understanding the funding of Rugby's reserves. | 10. Contractor for work near station pools |
| 5. The issue of stumps with respect to chainsaws and poisons, certificates and equipment. | 11. Working with the Rotary Club. |
| 6. Training for First Aid Certificates. | 12. Vote of thanks for work of Steve Batt (SB) |
| | 13. Election of committee members. |
| | 14. A.O.B |

Agenda 1 Treasurer's Report. See Attached from Jon Bourne

Agenda 2 Reports from reserves.

Swift Valley. See attached Report from Neville Weston.

KC has not heard from Dave Whitlock, so planned wetland area pond and scrape not progressing and not sure about future grazing.

SB took Rotary Group round for a walk at Swift. Colin Horton (RBC) and Severn Trent are in communication. SW said keep on pursuing the problem online.

Cock Robin Wood. See attached Report from Derek Lill.

Ashlawn. See attached Rugby Area Conservation Report from PP.

Problems with horses and motorbikes PSPOs (Public Spaces Protection Orders) are not yet in force. Phone 101 to report misuse of the Cutting to Community Safety Officers.

CJ applied for seeds from the "Grow Wild" initiative, we need to put in for more. MH said there were 2 patches which had been seeded with wild flowers but pernicious weeds were in between the patches. Those weeds need removing.

Abbey St. development – see item 11 below.

CJ said that Azolla has recently appeared in "Reservoir Pond" near the marsh and a scrape near Pytchley Bridge. The Trust paid for and introduced weevils to eliminate the Azolla. It is possible the weevils put in the main marsh in 2017 could overwinter and may spread to these outlying pools, so monitor Azolla in 2018.

Newbold Quarry. Agenda 9.

RB said a leader and more funding were needed. The group has been opening areas, meeting once a fortnight with about 6 – 8 volunteers each time. Enormous badger sett that could be 25 yr old, KC to meet with interested parties about Newbold. NW offered to come and have a chat. He said that the effort so far has been impressive and that he would help with any new initiative.

Agenda 3.

RH has said that he is willing to take over coordinating the website from JE who has done a splendid job. KC said social media (Twitter and Facebook) is very popular with 14,000 followers on the WWF. Facebook page.

KM suggested making a video of Ashlawn Cutting. CG suggested getting a drone at Swift Valley to take photos.

4. Agenda FUNDING

Priority Projects with High Level Stewardship (HLS) funding, the money usually goes on staff time. "Section 106", money is from companies to offset the effects of their developments in the local area eg Cock Robin Wood which was created after using land to build Sainsbury's. Grants from WWT, Green and Healthy Rugby, Tesco Bags and Chris Worman at RBC are our sources of money.

10 year agreements with the Trust expire in 2020. Brexit may scupper payments so grants from the Government may need re-negotiation by RBC and WWT.

Community grants for specific projects. We could target local businesses to undertake work at corporate days. Fun run went through the Cutting perhaps we could get donation from organisers if we have advance notice.

Agenda Stumps 5.

Chris Worman organises PA1/PA6 training. Chainsaw training may be through Bubbenhall KC to talk to Chris Worman. Anyone volunteering to use a chainsaw must be compliant with the Trust's requirements they need to show current licence, correct kit, PPE and practice. Because of cost Trust would only pay to train 2 people and use them as a pool for all reserves. KC said that the Trust will pay for general maintenance of brush cutters and chainsaws and PPE kit and yearly service.

6. First Aid.

There will be 1st Aid training classes in March and April. We should have a list of 1st aiders.

7. Brushcutter Maintenance See stumps 5.

8. See Swift Valley Report . Sluice gate use is unsatisfactory. Wetland area is very important to create. KC will speak to the relevant people and get NW to instruct.

10. Ashlawn plan up for review. RH asked if we should be managing for wetlands. KC said we need to prioritise wetlands in the new management plan when the current HLS runs out in 2020. Some problems eg: drainage are insoluble by us, we need professional help and input from the Trust. KC is to speak to the Reserves Officer, Alexis Evans, at the Trust.

11. Lawrence Wilbraham, the president elect of the Rotary Club is looking for a project to fund raise for. He is looking to liaise with Ashlawn Cutting Volunteers and the Trust about the possibilities. He is waiting for a decision possibly in August about the level of funding. Everything is vague at the moment. KC is to speak to Lawrence Wilbraham at Rotary Club.

12. Contribution from Steve Batt to Rugby's reserves has been enormous. His input as Chairman, his work in writing our constitution and setting us up with the Trust, ongoing paperwork, securing funding, his relationships with those at RBC, his behind the scenes "Mr Fixit" role and of course the hours of volunteer muscle has all been done in his unflappable style. Many, many thanks for everything Steve. Come back when you get fed up with Cornwall!
Steve Wright has stepped into the breach and taken on the task of workparty leader and Ray Hodges will take on the role of chairman. Many thanks to Steve and Ray!

13. MR Nominated RH for Chairman seconded by several people including SW. Everyone else was re-elected. Many thanks to Ray for taking over!

14 AOB Website. Our communication with the council is through Chris Worman, we need to keep him informed by applying to him for funding, reporting of volunteer hours and sending him photos of our work.

NW asked for transport of meadow cuttings for seed transfer to Swift. KC to take forward arrangements.

We need to provide more in the way of surveys. We need to be managing for Willow Tits and a new BTO bird surveyor. Colin Potter does training sessions. Any kind of surveys are desirable eg: plants, fungi, dragonflies. KC said thanks to Trust MR thanked him.

MR thanked for cake.

Many thanks to all our volunteers.

No further business so the meeting was closed.