

## **Friends of the Flitch Way and Associated Woodlands**

### **Minutes of Special General Meeting**

**Date:** Monday 10 July 2006

**Venue:** Rayne Station

**Present:** Executive Committee Stan Davies, Chair, Wendy Moss, Secretary

Peter Lane, Treasurer, Ann Lane, Jo Fish

Members John Moss, Chris Thorpe, Carol Allars, Colin Kelly, Andrew Bloomfield, Nora Owen,

Senior Ranger Nigel Wood

**Started:** 1950 hours

**Finished:** 2110 Hours

Stan welcomed everybody to the meeting, the main purpose of which was to discuss and vote upon the amendments to the Constitution suggested by the Charities Commission.

Everybody agreed they had seen both the original document which had been agreed at the AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2006 and the proposed amendments to the Objects at paragraph 3 which had been sent out by Wendy with notification of that evening's SGM.

The view of the meeting was that removing sub-paras 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.6 from the Constitution did not affect the aims, spirit or intentions of the Friends and Stan asked for a show of hands in favour of the proposed amendments to the document. All those present signified their agreement. The Secretary said that there had also been 11 postal responses in favour of the amendments received from members unable to attend the SGM. The revised Constitution was signed by the Executive Committee members accordingly.

Peter then spoke to the meeting re. funding.

He said that he had made a personal application on behalf of the Friends for Community Champions funding and had been successful in being awarded £2,000 to be used in the current financial year. £1,200 had already been received and the remainder would come in 6 months time. The Treasurer proposed spending the money as follows:

£800 Safety Equipment

£600 Training

£200 Stationery

£400 GPS system

The meeting agreed that not less than 2 members would attend specific training courses to spread knowledge within the group and to cover absences etc. Nigel felt that training courses needed to have a bio-diversity link.

Pete circulated a list of available training courses and asked that if anybody had ideas for any other training they let him or another committee member know.

Peter and Ann are shortly to have another meeting with the representative from the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) who have funding and support available, separate and independent from that coming from Essex County Council. P3's remit is to work in conjunction with Parish Councils and groups in opening up and improving access to the Flitch Way and making circular walks.

P3 will pay for and provide training in First Aid, Health and Safety and in the use of equipment which they will also purchase for the Friends' use. An issue needing to be addressed in due course will be the secure storage of any equipment which the Friends acquire.

Peter also referred to monies available from Lottery Funding which could be used for leasing Rookery Pond which would then allow the Friends to undertake further work there such as pond dipping platforms and a bridge. The time limit for application for Lottery Funding was 27 July and Nigel will speak to Matt Wilson who he believed had already spoken to the landowner on the subject.

Jo Fish referred to potential money available from the Community Initiative Fund, as well as to ideas for an Open Day at Rayne Station in 2007. Both matters will be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Jo also asked the position re. plans for opening a tea room at Rayne Station. Nigel said that funds were still available at ECC and that there were 3 different schemes currently being considered. He will report further as matters develop.

Nigel referred to the work programme for the remainder of the summer which had been sent to everybody by the Secretary and gave an overview of each of the proposed tasks to be undertaken.

After a break for refreshments, the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and brought the meeting to a close.