

**Friends of the Flich Way**  
**Notes from Committee Meeting of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

- Venue :** Discovery Centre, Great Notley Country Park
- Present :** Secretary, Sandra Reynolds;. Treasurer, Margaret James.  
Committee members, Stan Davies, John Moss, Wendy Moss.  
Ranger, Tom Hamilton
- Apologies:** Chairman, Alan Trigg. Committee members Val Blamire, Bob Lucas.

The meeting was led by vice chairman Stan in the absence of Alan.

**Minutes of previous meeting.**

Accepted as a true record and signed accordingly by Secretary.

**Matters arising and review of Action Points.**

From February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting: -

**AP2.5** Progress by Land Agents on declaring FW as Local Nature Reserve. Tom to report back in due course. Ongoing.

**AP4.3** Carriage roof repairs update. Wendy has been in touch with contractor and awaits a date from him to return and complete necessary work.

**AP4.8** Stane Street noticeboard. Draft with Sandra to produce mock up.

**AP4.9** Walk along Blackwater Rail Trail undertaken by Sandra with Alan and Barry. Report given to Tom to liaise with Sustrans and for consideration of recommendations.

**AP5.1** Grant application for work at Dunmow submitted. Response expected August.

**AP5.2** Contact with potential carriage volunteer made by Stan. He is currently at University and will get in touch during summer break.

**AP5.3** Meeting with bridge engineer not yet taken place.

**AP5.5** Meeting with Essex Hunt has taken place to discuss their use of Garnetts Wood and the consequent fouling and disturbance to other users. No satisfactory outcome as the Hunt don't accept there to be a problem with the hounds exercising there. Tom meeting with Country Parks management team to consider next appropriate action.

**Chairman's report.**

Other than to advise on the submission of the grant application, Chairman had advised Stan that he had nothing further to comment on.

**Treasurer's report.**

Margaret reported the current bank balance to be £8,903.66.

The carriage energy supplier had requested an increase in the monthly direct debit to £91. Alan, and subsequently Margaret, spoke to them re. the anticipated lower summer use of electricity. Following discussion, Margaret has agreed an improved deal with a 3-year contract and a reduction in the monthly direct debit to £60. Treasurer has also asked for Alan's name to be put on the account which would allow him to discuss our account with the supplier in the future.

Donations made by visitors to the carriage continue to cover expenditure.

On social matters, Margaret said that everyone had enjoyed the recent visit to Hoses Hall. The group's next outing will be to the Gibberd Garden and Harlow at the end of June with 11 members coming. The Essex Tourism brochure will be reviewed to find another interesting visit for the group in the Autumn.

#### **Secretary's report.**

Re. online stats, Sandra said that there had been 580 web page visits and 1312 views in the last week. Top pages this month were June wildlife 195, Flitch Way 49, Downloads 36, Blackwater Rail Trail 35 and Museum 28. Facebook showed 886 'likes', up 77 since the February meeting. Sandra circulated an updated map showing the proposed Flitch Way Action Group link route around Great Dunmow, setting out the current status of the various sections. (subsequently put on the Friends website).

With regard to current planned developments along the Flitch Way, approval has been given for land off Stortford Road opposite Hatfield Forest. Little to say in view of the development having already been approved by the local planning authority other than to press for an appropriate buffer zone between the development and the Flitch Way, appropriate fencing of the finished development and restricted public access onto the Flitch Way.

Sandra has also submitted the Friends thoughts on the application to develop the land south of Stortford Road at Great Dunmow, which includes Staggs Farm, between the road and Dunmow Cutting. The development would include 400+ dwellings plus a new Helena Romanes school.

#### **Work Party report.**

Wendy reported that 11 work parties had taken place since April with an average of 8.5 volunteers per session. Several work parties have taken place on the Blackwater Rail Trail with other visits made to Graunts Court, Start Hill, Felsted Slope and Colne Valley Railway site.

#### **Railway Carriage update.**

Stan said that the 3 fire extinguishers had been replaced. The supplier will make contact in 12 months' time to review their status.

The seal on one of the windows above the model has blown and will need replacing. John will contact NRC Double Glazing for them to come and have a look at it, they having previously replaced a window at the other end of the carriage.

Although most carriage open sessions have been covered since the last meeting, volunteer numbers continue to be low. Richard Wansbury has kindly offered to place posters in libraries around Chelmsford. Stan has done that at Dunmow library and will do so at Braintree.

Some discussion ensued on the current system, operated by Pam Maskell for volunteers offering their time in the carriage. Stan said that from his perspective, the inability to see what sessions had been booked led to uncertainty on volunteers' part as to whether they were needed or not. He asked, therefore, whether volunteers' contact details could be shown on Pam's emails when she asked for volunteers. That would allow volunteers to click on "reply to all" when responding to Pam, thereby alerting everyone to the sessions they intended doing. Wendy will contact Pam to get her views as there could be privacy issues in showing everyone's details.

### **Footpath Work Group (P3) report.**

As noted on Facebook, work parties since February have taken place at Takeley, Blackmore End, Foxearth, Hatfield Peveler, Sutton, Chrishall, Black Notley, Rayleigh and Earls Colne. A variety of tasks have been undertaken including kissing gate installation, footpath and byway clearance and bridge installation.

### **Ranger's report.**

Tom provided a provisional schedule up to the end of June which would include light clearance as well as removal of the campsite within Garnetts Wood.

Sandra referred to the latest incident at the travellers site at Felsted and suggested the need for better signage to make the separate paths into the site and onto the Flich more obvious to walkers and cyclists. Tom said that he had attended a meeting in Saffron Walden of parties with an interest in traveller site issues. The intention had been that closer attention would be paid to the area with regular patrols. He was not aware of that having taken place since the meeting, however. Tom added that he and Claire were working on signage.

### **Checklist, Annual review and sign off.**

Sandra has produced a list of items which needed to be checked on a regular basis. They included areas such as the Internet, forms, data and health and safety issues and the checks would ensure that the FoFW charity is complying with all its requirements. Sandra will send the checklist out again and invite suggestions for any further areas to be included. John will speak to the electrician regarding checks on the carriage's electrics. Stan will check the expiry date on the carriage smoke alarms.

### **Any Other Business.**

The speaker at the AGM had referred to the incident at Rayne Station in 1961 which had resulted in a local man being killed by a train at the level crossing. With help from Jim Gepp, Sandra had traced the man's son and spoken to him about putting some form of signage at the station recording the event. He had no objection and Sandra produced a mock-up of a possible sign which the committee agreed to. Sandra will get a quote for producing the sign and arrange to have it installed, perhaps with the local press in attendance.

Wendy said that Dunmow Town Council had arranged a get together at Foakes Hall the following day for people involved in voluntary work in and around Dunmow. The meeting felt it appropriate for the Friends to attend and Wendy and Stan will do so and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

The date of the next meeting was set for Wednesday 12 September at 4pm at the Discovery Centre.

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting was brought to a close.

**Summary of Action Points for next meeting**

*Brought forward from previous meeting*

AP2.5 Tom to update current position on declaring Flich Way as Local Nature Reserve.

Ap4.3 Wendy to update position re carriage roof work.

AP4.8 Sandra to update re Stane Street notice board.

AP5.1 Alan to give current position re Grant Application.

AP5.3 Tom to give update on meeting with ECC bridge engineer.

AP5.5 Tom to update position re Essex Hunt and Garnetts Wood.

*New Actions.*

AP6.1 John to report on carriage window replacement.

AP6.2 Wendy & Sandra to update position on Carriage Steward booking system.

AP6.3 Tom to report on signage at Travellers' site.

APS. 4 Sandra to give update on Rayne Station and Felsted Flier signage.