

Friends of the Flitch Way

Notes from Committee meeting of Wednesday 7th June 2017

Venue:	Sandra's house, Great Notley
Present:	Chairman, Alan Trigg; Secretary, Sandra Reynolds Treasurer, Margaret James; Committee members, Bob Lucas, John Moss, Wendy Moss
Apologies	Val Blamire, Tom Hamilton, Stan Davies

Minutes of last meeting

Accepted as a true record and signed by Chairman accordingly.

Matters arising and review of action points

From 7 March meeting:-

AP1.1 Done. Two quotes received for carriage roof. The first was for £7,680 + vat with a 15 year guarantee. The second was from Orchard and was for a liquid rubber coating £3,500 including VAT with a 15 year guarantee.

AP1.2 Done. Greenfields have given us permission to sell Wood Processor

AP1.3 Ongoing. BDC issued a Community Protection Warning on 28 April for dumping on the Flitch Way.

AP1.4 Done. Wendy confirmed that all stewards were contacted and some had been removed from the list.

AP1.5 Done. Wendy has confirmed there is space in carriage for GER chairs.

AP1.6 & AP1.7 Done. Wendy has spoken with Jill at Essex Community Funding and has some suggested funding options.

New AP2.1 Alan will discuss the boardwalk quotation with Tom and decide how to best get a quote.

New AP2.2 Wendy will apply to Essex Community Foundation community initiative fund for carriage roof

Review of West of Braintree framework document

Discussed the Aecom West of Braintree framework document published by BDC as part of the local plan. It outlines plans for a community of 22,500 people in 9,300 new homes near Rayne. Although the settlement is not bordering the Flitch it is very close and will result in a sizeable increase in the number of users. To give some perspective Braintree has a population of around 44,000.

The document states that the "Flitch Way an important asset to be maximised, conserved and enhanced" although does not go into any further detail. We agreed to keep the situation under review and also understand the plans for adjacent settlements in UDC when they become available so we can take appropriate action.

Chairman's report

Langford Halt is now complete and the screening has been put in place on Railway Cottage. Garnett's Wood car park has been laid but the benches not installed yet.

Work has been done on Takeley, Blackwater Rail trail and work parties are now working on Colne Valley Linear park.

New AP2.3 Tom to update on timeline with Garnetts Wood

Treasurer's report

Current account balance £4,646.94 with £1,600 in the savings account.

Donations from visitors to the carriage continued to cover carriage expenses.

New AP2.4 Margaret to speak to Stan about a thank you for Malcolm the auditor.

On social matters, Margaret said that 23 members had so far booked for the Layer Marney trip on July 4th at 10.30.

Secretary's report

We are waiting for ECC to declare the Flitch Way a Local Nature Reserve.

New AP 2.5 Tom to confirm status of declaration of LNR.

From the website, there have been 16 enquiries since the last meeting. There have been 271 web page visits and 884 views in the last week, the top pages being Flitch Way 45 and Blackwater Rail Trail 37. Downloads totalled 25. Some of the web pages are being re-formatted to show more information and the Langford Halt project has been added.

Facebook has 629 likes, up 80 since the March meeting. Most popular post in the last month was the Blackwater Rail trail reaching 1295 people.

8 visitor reviews have been put on the Trip Advisor website – unchanged since last meeting.

Flitch Way Action Group – William Chastell had stepped down as chairman and a summary of status and issues for the Flitch Way connection had been drafted. **New AP2.6** Sandra to circulate FWAG status and issues list

We discussed the issues of attracting more volunteers especially for the carriage and the level of supervision that may be required for youth volunteers.

New AP2.7 Sandra to draft a policy for youth volunteering and then circulate to the committee for review.

New AP2.8 Sandra to confirm group numbers of field trip led by John Cooke of Essex Field Club to Dunmow Cutting on 24 June.

Andrew Adair has done much work trying to get extra protection for the Flitch with Client Earth and although they are supportive they are not able to help. **New AP 2.9** Alan to speak with Andrew regarding next steps.

Work Party report

Nothing extra to report as covered by Chairman's report. John had borrowed mower and cut area around the carriage.

Railway carriage update

We discussed the proposal to change the carriage opening hours and we agreed that we should keep the hours as they are and leave it to the stewards discretion if they wanted to extend the hours at the end of the day.

Stan hosted the Rayne beavers visit to the carriage which received thanks.

Footpath group (P3) report

Nothing to report

Ranger's report

Nothing to report

Future of wood processor

New AP2.10 – Agree time with Tom when to clean the processor and video it working in order to sell it more easily.

Any other business

Dunmow Carnival – Sandra and Alan will help FWAG with the procession in September and hand out flyers. **New AP2.11** Alan will contact Andrew Adair to see if they want to do a stand for the Dunmow carnival. **New AP2.12** Sandra to produce a flyer on volunteering to be handed out at the carnival.

Next meeting

Suggested time for next Committee meeting Wednesday 6 September at 10.00 at country park to make it easier for Tom to attend.

New AP2.13 Sandra to confirm time, date and venue with Tom.

There being nothing more to discuss, Chairman brought the meeting to a close.

Summary of Action Points for next meeting

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