

Friends of the Flich Way and Associated Woodlands
Notes from Committee meeting of Wednesday 10 November 2021, Great Notley

Taking part: Stan Davies (Chair), Sandra Reynolds (Secretary), Margaret James (Treasurer), Alan Trigg (Vice-chair) and Committee members, Wendy Moss, John Moss, Graham Dalby, Tom Hamilton (Ranger).

Apologies for absence: Val Blamire, Bob Wright.

Approval of Minutes of 29 September 2021 - Agreed by all and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising and review of Action Points from last meeting.

Closed actions:-

AP16.1 Sandra to investigate a cost-effective solution for contactless donations and applied for Zetel.

AP16.2 Sandra asked Dick Hughes about how drainage could be improved between Braintree and Rayne but Dick was not familiar with this section.

AP16.4 Stan briefed Josh at the Booking Hall Cafe on Santa dates

AP16.5 Sandra setup online Santa ticketing.

AP16.6 Sandra let Rayne Platinum Jubilee celebration team know that we will be happy to support the fete.

AP16.7 Sandra responded to Braintree Community Ad magazine and ask them to send us a list of questions which we could respond to for their article.

AP16.8 Sandra added a website link to the Rayne Heritage Site.

AP16.9 Sandra successfully applied to BDC for free bulbs to plant at Rayne.

Carried forward from previous meetings and ongoing:-

AP11.1 Sandra has been in contact with Countryside Properties and things are now moving. We need a follow up call as there may be a safe way through the new development to the east of Langford Halt.

AP16.3 Bob has written to SRC quarry to see if they can provide 20mm gravel for some of the paths in Garnetts Wood and High Cross Lane car park and is awaiting a response.

New Actions:

AP17.1 Sandra to send Tom the link to the offer of free trees. Update – the link is

<https://eforests.co.uk/freetrees>.

AP17.2 Sandra to contact gamekeeper at Grange Farm who had offered to help us before. Update – Grange Sporting are happy to help and can ferry us to the site saving a 2 mile round trip walk.

AP17.3 Stan and Wendy to get quotes for equipment and submit request to Graham Butland.

Chairman's report: Nothing of note to report. Met with the Scottish Rail ramblers group and their locally based friends. Had a pleasant lunch and gave a talk on the Flich Way.

As one of the Chairman's nominated charities, I have been invited by BDC to say a few words on the Friends work at the Chairman's Christmas service taking place on 9 December at St Peters, Bocking. Margaret, Wendy and John to attend alongside Stan.

Treasurer's report

Our current bank balance as of 22 October is £6,918.35. At this point we have received £40 from Virgin Money and £105 from donations to the Carriage. The Electricity costs have been increased to £65 per month. The smart meter installation was not possible so we will still need to keep reading the meter.

Social Activities Report

Our Christmas lunch will be at the Bell in Panfield. We are only able to have 30 people and these places were all taken within 3 hours of the email going out. All monies have been paid and menu choices chosen so we are unable to accept any more people.

Secretary's report

Online statistics - 1,327 web page visits and 2,270 page views in last month. Facebook shows 2,087 'likes', up 76 since the September meeting.

Placed an order for 4 Paypal donation signs to be used around Rayne Station.

Planning Applications

UTT/21/1577/FUL Land to the south of Dunmow Road, The Street, Takeley on former paddock for 2 houses was approved. We need to monitor the development as surveying pegs were found on the Flitch Way.

UTT/21/3095/FUL which is almost next door. Application to demolish pair of semi-detached houses and build 6 new houses effectively in-filling the site. We will respond requesting an adequate buffer strip.

UTT/21/1683/FUL Station House Takeley. Application refused to turn the station into a 5 bed HMO.

UTT/21/3272/OP The Squires, Little Canfield - Welbeck Land have submitted proposals for 90 houses on land to the north of the gravel pit.

UTT/19/2354/OP Land West of Buttleys Lane (60 houses). An appeal has been lodged against the planning permission refusal and written responses are required by 28 October 2021. Awaiting decision.

UTT/18/2574/OP Land south of Stortford Road (332 houses at Staggs & Folly farms). No decision has been made yet but a draft S106 has been produced which included £54,000 for drainage and surface improvements in the cutting and boardwalk section plus the creation of a bridleway and semi-hard, semi-permanent surfacing between Buttleys Lane and Ongar Road which is part of the Flitch Way connection.

UTT/20/2613/OP Land north of the B1256 Braintree Road, Dunmow for 38 houses. Investigate whether S106 funding could be available for upgraded bridge over the River Chelmer. This was refused before we made any comment.

Work Party report

Since the last meeting we have carried out 8 work parties with numbers of volunteers increasing to 10 of late, working on the boardwalk at Great Dunmow, some clearance of the footpath between Rayne and Gore road and more recently at Great Notley cutting down the willow tunnel and other clearance work around the lake.

Railway Carriage update - The Canopy has been installed on the platform at Rayne. One anchor point has been used on the Carriage but felt unlikely to cause any damage to the Carriage. Since the last meeting, the Carriage has been open for 39 sessions with 5 volunteers. The volunteers are now down to a small number of regulars with Derek accounting for 25 sessions out of the 39, Lloyd and Gwyneth 2, Chris Butcher 3, Susan 1 and Elizabeth 3. We could ask Pam to check if other volunteers want to stay on the list.

Thanks to Sandra the TV she gave us fitted just right and John has installed it in the Carriage and it is up and running now.

Footpath group (P3) report – The following work parties have taken place since the last meeting:
29 September Braintree clearing side growth along the footpath alongside A120 near Notley High School.

6 October Elsenham Clearance of footpath and bridleway.

13 October Pleshey and High Easter Clearance of footpath, install steps, 7 waymarker posts installed.

29 October Elsenham Clearance bridleway.

3 November Bures Clearance of footpath. 5 waymarker posts installed.

Ranger's report

It is good to see larger groups of volunteers out on work parties again. We will continue to work at Great Notley and move on to the Flitch Way working between Little Dunmow and the Grange Lane byway. A health and safety audit as been done on the Flitch Way and there an updated pack will be issued in due course for all volunteers.

We may be able to plant some new trees at Notley.

This year our work party Christmas gathering will be at Great Notley on Thursday 9 December.

AP17.1 Sandra to send Tom the link to the offer of free trees.

AP17.2 Sandra to contact gamekeeper at Grange Farm who had offered to help us before.

Any Other Business

Equipment for locality fund

We discussed the equipment we might need and Stan agree to pull the list together.

AP17.3 Stan and Wendy to get quotes for equipment and submit request to Graham Butland.

Christmas

The Carriage will be decorated on 1 Dec.

Approximately 80 tickets sold so far. Margaret and Wendy have managed to source another 120 Santa gifts and wrapping paper from the works getting a large 50% discount total cost was £62 a real saving! We now have a total of 172 gifts so we need to know if sales exceed this number.

We will allow 2 adults in the Carriage with children. Any group photos will need to be outside. We will ask people to wear masks and have them available at the door. We will now have an hour break for lunch between 12.15 and 1.15 on the Friday which gives us all chance for a break and Santa swap over.

We will have a card reader if people want to make a contactless donation. Derek may have a stall outside. Brian will oversee the model section of the Carriage. One or two volunteers will run the nail game and Lauren will run a stall selling candles etc.

Thanks to Tom, Stan John and Wendy visited the barn and have chosen 4 silver light up reindeers, several lovely silver light up cone shape trees and a huge string of globe lights to go the length of the carriage. All of which will be able to be placed on the platform as part of our display.

Volunteers for Santa days will be :

Fri – Stan, Wendy, John, Margaret, Graham, Sandra, Brian, Wendy T, Derek, Sue and Marina.

Sat pm – Stan, Wendy, John, Margaret, Alan, Sandra, Brian, Wendy and Derek..

Next meeting

Wednesday 19 January at 2pm at Wendy and John's house.

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chairman thanked everybody for their contributions and brought the meeting to a close.