



Jane Taylor-Holmes, Secretary  
42 Eafield Avenue  
Milnrow  
Rochdale  
OL16 3UN

01706 657925  
07879 686964

[Janeholmes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Janeholmes@hotmail.co.uk)

June 2017

Dear Member

**Friends of Hollingworth Lake**

Please find enclosed the minutes from the previous meeting on the 30 of March 2017 along with a draft agenda for the next meeting on the 29 June 2017. Please note that the meeting will commence at 7.30pm and will be held at the Visitors Centre.

Should anyone have any items for the agenda please contact me before the next meeting so that a revised agenda may be circulated.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on 29 June 2017.

Yours sincerely

*Jane Taylor-Holmes*

Jane Taylor-Holmes  
Secretary

## ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF HOLLINGWORTH LAKE MEMBERS MEETING

Thursday 29 June 2017 at 7.30pm at Hollingworth Lake Visitors Centre

### DRAFT AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Approval of minutes of meeting on 30 March 2017
4. Finance Update – Bank Mandate – additional signatory
5. Trustee / Directors numbers – appointment
6. Ranger Update
7. Future strategy of group
8. Ongoing projects and future plans – general discussion
  - Sensory garden – maintenance and upkeep
  - Events
  - Wildlife Update
9. Any other business
10. Date / Time of next meetings

All meetings to commence at 7.30pm and be held at the Visitors Centre;  
AGM to be confirmed – suggested date Thursday 12 October 2017

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF HOLLINGWORTH LAKE MEMBERS MEETING  
30.3.17

In attendance

Rae Street (Chair of the meeting and member), Pat Carline (member) Vivienne Ashworth (member), Niigel Eves (member), Elizabeth Cropper (member) Barry Cropper (member) Jim Taylor (member) Andrew Huyton (guest)

1. The Chair welcomed the members and there was a round of introductions.
2. Apologies for absence  
Councillor Ann Stott, Joanne Dobbs, Jean Bogg, Tony Rumbelow
3. The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed
4. Finance Update  
Nigel Eves, the Treasurer, reported that the bank balance was £604.52p With the retirement of Ray Smith, there were now only two cheque signatories. If anyone is interested in being a signatory, could they let the Secretary know.
5. Trustee/Director numbers . We now only have four and we need, preferably an uneven number, say five. If anyone wishes to be a Trustee, could they contact the Secretary before the next meet on 29 June 2017
6. Statement of People with Significant Control. The statement which had been circulated with the minutes was accepted.
7. Ranger Update  
There had been extensive work on the orchard projects; drainage ditches round the nature reserve had been dug out; bulrushes had been planted in a section of the nature reserve lagoon; updated information panels for the Visitor Centre are nearing completion and should be in place for the summer season; hundreds of bulbs have been planted around the Visitor Centre and in the Eales Woods (they include some snakes head fritillaries); habitat improvements have taken place in the Forest School area (the work was funded by NatureEd via the Postcode Lottery); the new resident blue tit is finally making a nest in the bird cam nest box. This should be a great addition to the Visitor Centre display.  
Exhibition  
The Countryside Rangers' exhibition is now on display in the upstairs of the Visitor Centre and it shows the work done round the Borough over the last year. There is a space for the Friends of the Lake. So there were two suggestions:  
A picture of the Sensory Garden which is looking, thanks to Elizabeth, very attractive with spring flowers  
And  
To put up the Friends pop up banner  
Jim Taylor would chase these up.

8. Jim Taylor reported back on the meeting with the Consultant, Kevin Brown, on the project to enhance visitor experience. Jim said there was some talk between them about the roles of groups. Jim had stated that our group felt all was fine at the moment without new attractions. What was needed badly was money and resource to improve the existing facilities, for example the play area next the Visitor Centre. The Consultant appeared to agree that attractions such as a high zip wire would not be appropriate. The Consultant also appeared to be interested in looking into restoration of the Lady Alice. Jim had received a report from RMBC to inform us that submissions will go to the Council, but nothing likely to happen until April 2018.

There was some discussion on the benefits of Hollingworth Lake Country Park, for example, so many people of all ages and abilities being able to walk or exercise in the fresh air near the countryside. It would be difficult, as someone remarked, to put a price on this, but certainly more recognition by the local authority and government should be made of this.

9. Ongoing projects and future plans

Sensory garden.

Thanks were expressed to Elizabeth Cropper for all her work in keeping so well cared for. Elizabeth again asked if somehow a coffee table could be provided. After some discussion, it was agreed the Group would fund this. Elizabeth would find out where we could obtain the table she had in mind and bring back costings for us.

Events

2<sup>nd</sup> **May Dawn Chorus** Meet 6.30 am meet at the Visitor Centre

13 **May Wild About Bats** 8.30. pm meet at the Visitor Centre. You must book a place – ring the Visitor Centre. £2.50 per person.

Future Plans

Jim and Andrew are organising a **Bird Blitz** but there are no dates yet.

They are also planning a **Bio Blitz** highlighting all wild life activity – again no dates yet.

Andrew also reported on a meeting with Catrina Aspen of the RSPB who hoped to bring along a display about twites. She said that in 2010 there were ten pairs at Chelburn, but now there was only one. It seems the decline is because of the change of habitat.

Other groups would want to join the Bio Blitz, including the Rochdale Field Naturalists.

Elizabeth asked what had happened to the bee hives. Jim said he would ring Ray Smith for information.

Wildlife update

Jim and Andrew reported see chiff chaffs and an osprey coming through. There are buzzards at Lydgate. Also the first peacock butterfly had been seen Andrew had helped some toads across the road at Lydgate and there is frog spawn in the

ditches at the Lake. It was suggested that the ditches needed more digging out because if they dry up, the spawn will die.

Grey squirrels are becoming an increasing pest.

#### 10. Crook Hill Community Benefit Fund

Jim has applied for a £1,000 grant for bat detectors, a bird feeding station and a year's supply of food. He will know by April if we have been successful. Thanks were expressed to Jim for working on this.

#### 11. Meetings

There was some discussion about drawing up details of the group's aims and objectives.

It was felt we should have a special meeting just on this topic. Jim would ask Jane, our Secretary, her views on this.

Date of next meeting Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30, at the Visitor Centre

At the end of the meeting congratulations were passed to Jane and Jim on the birth of their daughter, Libby Sarah Taylor-Holmes – our youngest member!

Copies of NatureEd's quarterly summary were available for members to take away.