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July 2019

Dear Member

Friends of Hollingworth Lake

Please find enclosed the minutes from the previous meeting on the 25 April 2019 along with a draft agenda for the next meeting on the **18 July 2019**. 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 on the 18 July 2019

Yours sincerely

Jane Taylor-Holmes
Secretary

FRIENDS OF HOLLINGWORTH LAKE

Thursday 18 July 2019 at 7.30pm at Hollingworth Lake Visitors Centre

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Approval of minutes of meeting on 25 April 2019
5. Matters Arising from previous meeting
6. Correspondence
7. Meetings update; Management / HL Working Group
8. Finance Update
9. Link 4 Life / Ranger Update
10. Ongoing projects and updates
 - Littleborough Civic Trust – Signage Group
 - Enviro-gym
 - Vileda – Pond & Meadow & Bird Hide refurbishment project
 - Bird boxes
 - Other projects
 - Events
 - Sensory garden – maintenance and upkeep
 - Wildlife update
11. Date / Time of next meeting

All meetings to commence at 7.30pm and be held at the Visitors Centre
AGM – October 2019 – to be arranged

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF HOLLINGWORTH LAKE
MEMBERS MEETING 25 April 2019

IN ATTENDANCE

Ray Smith, (RS), member and Chair, Jim Taylor (JT), Director / member, Rae Street, Director & Member, Kate Clegg, Member, Martin Rodgers, Member, Pat Carline, Member, Vivienne Ashworth, Director / Member. Cllr. Ann Stott (JP), Member, Kath Clegg, Member, M Sandens, Member.

Claire Costigan, Link 4 Life

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed attendees and opened the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from, Jean Bogg, Member, Nigel Eves, Treasurer, Jane Taylor-Holmes, Secretary, Andrew Huyon, Member, Jo-Anna Dobbs, Member, Judy Alderson and Adam Clayton.

3. Declarations of Interest

As previously declared, RS explained that he was also the Chair of Pennines in Bloom.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 January 2019 were agreed as a correct record; Pat Carline, Ann Stott

5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence

7. Meetings update – Hollingworth Lake Working Group – 16 January 2019

Members noted the update provided in the previous minutes.

Update from meeting on 21 May 2019;

- i) The new stone wall raised bed now completed and infill of top soil. Now awaiting plants e.g. fruit trees, strawberry plants. Works scheduled for 6 June 2019

- ii) Got timber sleepers for two raised beds at the back of the lake, RS explained that he had to contact Army support group in relation to the development of this area.
- iii) New herb bed created now placed at the rear of the Green man, requires more herb plants. Old herb garden being sown with wild flowers this year then removed in October 2019
- iv) Comments made to the meeting by Ray Smith to the United Utilities representative;
 - a. Over last 12 years, United Utilities have received £360,000 of public money.
 - b. Questioned what had been done with the money
 - c. RS suggested goodwill contribution to tarmac or otherwise improve the footpath from the Beach Hotel to the café at the back of the Lake
 - d. Were UU aware that 1.2million visitors to the Lake annually.
 - e. There are many disabled visitors who find access around the lake due to deep water filled pot holes challenging, even using motorised scooters, what can be done to support these visitors.
 - f. Ray Smith explained that the previous response from UU has been that the surface only needs to be fit for a four by four vehicle access. UU made minimal response to the comments made and put forward but reminded the group that UU have a moratorium in place.

Ray Smith would raise the issue about footpath improvements at the next meeting.

8. Finance Update

£8,818.81 balance in the bank. This included £2400 which had been received for the stone wall raised bed at the back of the lake.

9. Ranger update

There had been no report received. (Nature ed Annual review report, quarterly report and Environmental Education and Outdoor Learning guide with electronic minutes)

Link 4 Life update

CC provided a report, to follow.

10. Future strategy of the Group

This would be discussed further when the decision regarding management of the Lake was made.

11. Ongoing projects and updates

- Littleborough Civic Trust – Signage Group – no information provided
- Enviro-gym – all work complete.
- Vileda – Pond & Meadow & Bird Hide refurbishment project – update to be provided to the next meeting.
- Bird boxes – bird box installation had been completed in the agreed locations.
- Events – the woodland festival was very well attended by the general public. Adam Clayton will continue to organise and lead the over 50 walks.
- Sensory garden – The Ranger Service in conjunction with the Green Volunteers would support upkeep and maintenance.
- Wildlife update – Jim Taylor reported that the original overflow system was full of fish suffering because they were trapped in the first part of the overflow system. JT explained that in the long term it was feared that the reduced water level may negatively impact on the nature reserve habitat. JT explained that there was a dawn chorus walk planned and a bat walk. JT was also leading a bat walk for the local Field Naturalist society.

12. Any other business

Apologies had been received from Andrew Huyton, he had put forward the following comments / update;

- I believe that the recent funding obtained by the rangers had provision for a floating platform for the nature reserve, I suggested that this be in the form of a tern raft and provided information with regards a possible supplier of such. Can we have an update as to whether this is still in plan and if so when it maybe installed? – Rangers not present to provide an update.
- Can I also ask about the 10 year Countryside Management Plan and what advice has been sought or if this is still an open consultation? Has an experienced ecologist been consulted? I fully support the idea of the plan so long as it is produced in consultation and with proper advice. – the draft had commenced and consultation would be underway
- Update on the Shaw Moss project, we had been led to believe that the person I had met along with the ecologist Emma Marston; Jason Faith was the landowner.

In fact the owner is Huey Conway, his father-in-law, who is 85. I will be meeting with him shortly and will update you all following that meeting.

- Recent sightings, waders have been making use of the low water levels with Redshank, Ringed and Little ringed plovers all been seen on the reserve and over at Shaw Moss. Swallows, House Martins and Sand Martins have all returned as have Willow warblers, Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps. Rabbit numbers again appear high so the local Buzzards should have a good breeding year.

13. Date for next meeting

Thursday 18 July 2019
Further dates to be confirmed