

Friends of Garthorne Road Nature Reserve

Committee Meeting – 24th May 2017 - Railway Telegraph, Stanstead Road

Welcome and apologies

Present

- Ben Morris
- Chris Andrews
- Ami Evans
- Rebecca Woodall

Apologies for absence

- Ernest Thomason

Site work and repairs

The sign has been installed on the site and the committee are very pleased with the outcome.

The committee note that £350 has been received into the bank account to pay for the painting of the shed.

- We will meet with the artist Butch Gordon ASAP to show him around the site and discuss the work.
- The committee felt that they wanted to leave Butch a fair amount of artistic license rather than being too proscriptive over what to put on the shed.
- We agreed that the name of the reserve should be incorporated into any design along with some commonly-found species, i.e. foxes and marbled white butterflies.
- Rebecca Woodall offered to create a mood board to provide a broad steer for Butch in terms of themes, animals and insects to include.

Annual General Meeting and Open Afternoon

The committee has agreed to hold the AGM on **Wednesday 19th July at 8pm.**

The AGM will be supported by an open afternoon on **Monday 10th July from 3.30pm to 5.30pm.**

Election of a new committee

As part of the AGM we will elect a new committee for the next year.

Chris Andrews will be moving to Spain in the summer for at least a year. The committee are disappointed to be losing Chris though will be pleased to welcome him back should he grow tired of all that sunshine. We hope he will remain active as we organise the AGM and open afternoon.

Although the current committee members have expressed a willingness to continue, we do want to recruit one or two more active members to the committee. Hopefully some volunteers will be identified over the next month as we publicise the AGM and accompanying open afternoon.

Changes to the constitution

At the AGM we will seek to adjust the constitution to reduce the size of a quorum from four people to three – it has been particularly difficult to organise committee meetings recently.

Open afternoon

The focus of the open afternoon will be to encourage local residents, particularly those with children, to visit the site. We hope that the afternoon\early evening timing might make it easier for families to visit.

Chris Andrews has offered to help publicise the open afternoon at local schools.

Venue and publicity

We will decide on the venue for the AGM by mid-June. Upstairs rooms in the Railway Telegraph and Honour Oak pubs are candidates, so long as they can be booked for free. Alternatively, we could consider using the Devonshire Road Nature Reserve if it is available.

Once a venue has been decided we can publicise the event through fliers and online postings. We should aim to start this activity by 19th June.