

Members' Activity Group Meeting

Venue: Clubhouse

Date: 18th October 2025

Time: 4pm

Attendees

Duncan, Gabby, Jane (*chair*), Jem, Karyn, Matthew (*minutes*), Michael, Sylvia

Apologies

Carol, Dawn

Items

1.

Volunteers

At the *Ripon Grammar School Volunteer Fair* seven Year 12 students signed up to volunteer for FoHW. Carol is checking whether any alterations to the FoHW insurance or DBS checks are necessary before these volunteers can join a working group activity.

Wednesday afternoon is the school time allocated for these students to attend volunteer activities.

Power of 10 is an initiative of HADCA run by Jo Thackery to get youngsters involved in volunteering. Another source of volunteers is *Help Out Ripon* who could arrange volunteers if requested by charity groups like FoHW.

The Army Foundation College Trainees Soldiers working towards their D of E award are available for a working group activity for two days over a weekend in November with the proviso that they are supervised by their own officers. Sylvia is to contact the AFC to ascertain which of the 15th/16th or the 22nd/23rd is suitable.

2.

Fly Tipping

A number of residents whose gardens abut Hell Wath have been fly tipping garden waste onto the site. The people concerned have been advised of the illegality of this action. If NYCC could supply a skip this waste could be removed on a working group activity session.

3.

Woodland Management Plan and Tree Work

Gabby is to email Fran and the tree officers to try to push forward a decision on permitting winter tree work to take place in accordance with the Woodland Management Plan submitted to NYCC by

Will Richardson. If permission is granted then cutting, coppicing, dead hedging and planting can commence in designated areas around the site, viz: the quarry, the pond, river- and woodland edge.

4.

Fencing

Committed sums are available for further fencing and these need to be bid for as soon as possible. Matthew to email Fran with an ambitious plan for fencing the rest of Field 4 (incorporating the triangular enclosure), the quarry surrounds (incorporating the other enclosure) and the bank on the west (river) side of the recently surfaced woodland path as you walk north from the direction of Hell Wath Cottage.

5.

Other items

- a. Sylvia is to email John to confirm whether the bat box check will go ahead next weekend 25th/26th in which case members will be able to participate.
- b. The manufacturers have a replacement sign for the one by Fairy Steps which was repaired by Michael after being damaged. The replacement sign might need some adjustments made before it is suitable for installing.
- c. The casts of the marker plaque commemorating the dam on the river and other documents are to be handed over to FoHW for safe-keeping, Jem to look at what is involved.
- d. Carol and Tony's donated storage shed has not yet been erected behind the clubhouse. This could be a job for volunteers so that the tools and tree planting and fencing equipment can be stored safely and the end of the compound with FoHW's items can be tidied up.

6.

Activity Days

Saturday or Sunday October 25th or 26th (tbc)

Bat box check

Wednesday November 5th

Meet at 1.30pm at the clubhouse for work in the quarry. Moving brash, branches and logs from the quarry floor to form a perimeter dead hedge. Some lopping, cutting and sawing involved. Also clearing up the extensive fly-tipping. Also some recording of winter green plants emerging or regrowing from the quarry floor as a base-line record if people are interested.

If insurance is in place some RGS volunteers may be able to attend this session as a taster.

Sunday November 16th

Meet at 10am at the clubhouse for further work in the quarry as above.

Sunday November 23rd

Meet at 10am at the clubhouse for further work in the quarry as above.

On one of these dates members will be joined by trainee soldiers from the AFC who will also be working on the previous Saturday. One of their tasks will be to remove the garden fly-tipping waste.

Further work days related to Items 3 and 4 will be planned over the winter if and when funds and permissions are forthcoming.

Meeting ended 5.06pm