

**Minutes of Friends of Crofton and Sparrow Woods Committee Meeting at 6.30pm  
16 January 2024 by Zoom**

**Present:**

Jane Andrews

John Bray

Karen King

Claire Osborn

Kirsty Blackman

Penny Read idverde

**Apologies:** Jonathan Lynch

**1. Welcome & discuss minutes of last meeting**

It was noted that the minutes of the previous Committee meeting were not available, and it was agreed to clear the minutes of this meeting and the previous meeting at our next meeting. Minutes sorted out.

**2. Update on projects**

**2.1 Benches**

Petts Wood Residents Association funding 3 of their own benches with idverde assistance.

3 bench tops bought, 2 to St Thomas Open Space, third by West Kydbrook

2 vacant bench sites, E and S sides of recreation ground. E done, if no more damage S side will be reinstated by mid-summer

**Action point 1: Penny to reinstate S bench mid-summer if no more vandalism**

**2.2 Outreach**

No new talks

**2.3 Playground refurbishment**

Council want to add a water fountain.

**Action point 2: Penny to provide plan**

There is a ex-ladies toilet in the pavillion that might be useable for storage, or even have the toilet reinstated

**Action point 3: Penny to get FOCSW a key**

**2.4 Sewage monitoring**

Kirsty provided an update, she's had lab results, but they are hard to interpret.

## **2.5 Football container**

Project abandoned, ex-toilet as an alternative.

## **2.6 Interpretation board grant bids**

Quote for 2 A2 boards is more than expected at £6.5k, over £5k grant limit. A single board is £3250 to install in St Thomas Glade. £3000 grant Platinum Grant approved for a single bench, needs £100 contribution from us.

## **2.7 Motorcycles**

FOCSW had been contacted by people concerned about motorbikes and horses in the wood.

## **3. Decisions sought**

### **3.1 Hi-vis Jackets – seeking agreement to buy**

Jane bought 10, large and extra (!) large for about £80

### **3.2 People at work signs**

John asked FODNW for their experiences

### **Action point 4: Jane to buy 2 signs**

### **3.3 Orchard**

The possibility was raised at of having an orchard in the recreation ground.

### **Action point 5: Jane and Kirsty to progress**

### **3.4 Long grass at edge of recreation ground**

**Action point 6: Penny to get long grass cut and baled, perhaps with assistance of Autumn friends work session, before 3 September**

### **3.5 Leaflets**

Jane bought 1000 two-side A5 leaflets. Being delivered and put in libraries etc

### **3.6 Bridges**

One replaced, we could use scavenged concrete to ease access to the other Downstream bridge and approaches at our cost. Natural England/SSSI . Wait for new ranger

### **3.7 Additional banner**

Jane bought a second banner

## **4. Membership – Claire**

95 members on mailing list.

**Action point 7: Claire to send yearly reminder mentioning GDPR and asking for donations. No form filling early March:**

#### **5. Treasurer's report - Karen**

Update on financial position: £2495 in current account, with £55 donations.

*£500 grant won from Little Magic Grants Postcode Lottery, no restrictions on spending, 12 months*

#### **6. Future opportunities to widen awareness of FoC&SW – all**

##### **6.1 Wreath making**

Karen reported wreath making workshop. costs £160 and £22/hour for 20 person hall. Suggested £20-£25 charge. We agreed to let her proceed.

**Action point 8: Karen to persue**

Coffee morning to be held 3 Feb

##### **6.2 Doggy day**

Fun dog thing. Karen to meet Beckenham lady, hold in summery holidays.

**Action point 9: Karen to plan**

##### **6.3 Easter Egg Hunt or general hunt**

**Action point 10: Jane to persue if no doggy day**

#### **7. Crofton circular walk**

**Action point 11: John to audit when dry**

#### **8. Sat work group**

Caroline Potter will run one in the Spring.

#### **9. AOB**

3 RSPB owl boxes to be installed. Ian Wright to consult Natural England

**Action point 12: Jane to arrange AGM, perhaps with bird talk**

The committee confirmed that Idverde have full responsibility for management of the woodland, and any criticisms from FOCSW members are done as private individuals.

Ongoing horsy problems

**Action point 13: Jane to give Penny a list of barriered/ non-barriered entrances**

#### **10. Agree timing and date of next meeting**

6.30pm Tuesday 16 April 2024 by Zoom