

Gallows Bank Trust

Committee Meeting held on Thursday 15th June 2023 at 23 Charlton Rise, Ludlow, 7.30 pm.

Present: Dave Davies (DD), Chair, Jane Davies (JD), Membership Secretary and Treasurer, Di Lyle (DL) Secretary, Trice Astill (TA), Brian Smart (BS) and Lesley Smart (LS).

Apologies: Kate Adams and Heather Price.

Minutes of Past Meeting

The Minutes from the meeting held on 15th March 2023 were agreed.

Matters Arising:

Culvert: The gate and kissing-gate are ready to install when volunteers are organised (see Projects item below).

Signage: No further action.

Picnic Benches/Tables: These have been inspected and no further actions is needed.

Leaflets for Green Festival: Existing leaflet needs to be updated with recent photos added.

Action: TA/DL to update leaflet. DL to arrange printing for 9th July.

AGM Venue: The Feathers will charge £100. DL to investigate using the Athena Taverna at the Mascall Centre. If available, the venue would facilitate including a social element to the AGM with the chance to meet-and-greet attendees prior to the meeting itself.

Action: DL to talk to Athena with regard to holding the AGM there.

Chairman's Report:

Dave Davies reported positively on a variety of activities which had taken place since the last committee meeting, including the tree planting in March. Of the 96 trees planted, 9 have failed and he will ask for replacements. Of the vandalised oak trees, two have been replanted and seem to be surviving. Selective weed killer has been applied to prevent strong weed and briar growth from around the trees but the weeds need to be cut back to allow good tree growth.

The wildflower area continues to cause concern with very strong weed and grass growth smothering the wild flowers but there are areas of Dog Daisy which have appeared plus some other species yet to be identified. The area was harrowed in the Spring and more seeds were sewn which, hopefully will germinate. Some bluebells had appeared for the first time this year.

The litter pick was successful with another one planned for November. This is a good opportunity to involve the Friends but regular users of the Bank collect litter which keeps it looking tidy. For future litter pick events, it was suggested organising the pickers into teams of two, one collecting general waste, the other items which could be recycled, such as bottles and cans. DL to find out if this will prevent everything collected going straight into the incinerator.

Action: DL to find out what happened to the rubbish from the litter pick and whether sorting the rubbish into general and recyclable waste will be more ecological.

Dave pointed out the high expenditure during the year which had depleted the bank balance and that further grant funding should be identified, perhaps from Ludlow Town Council. DL said that the current bank balance of the Friends would probably disqualify a grant. However, if there was a specific and high-cost project, the council might look more favourably on an application plus the Friends themselves could be asked to help fund something specific. Creating the Wetland Area could be such a project (see comments below).

Dave thanked everyone involved in the work which had been completed so far.

Treasurer's Report:

Jane circulated brief details of income and expenditure. The total income was £2,661 (the Veolia and Tesco grants, plus a donation of £100); expenditure was £2,755.42 for purchase of the trees, tree ties, the gates for the Culvert and the insurance renewal. The current balance was £6,453.95

Membership Report:

With the abolition of membership subscriptions, it was agreed Jane no longer needed to keep a record of members. DL received information from Peta Sams of anyone joining as a Friend via the Gallows Bank website; there had been 2 following the press release about the litter pick and they have been welcomed. Members could be asked to contribute money for a specific project as well as being asked to help physically.

Projects:

Installing the gates at the Culvert (see Matters Arising above) and putting stones around the gates will be easily completed by Dave and Brian.

Brian pointed out that there was, always, help needed with maintenance generally and which could attract regular involvement and interest from the members.

Action: DL to agree dates with DD and BS and send out an email inviting members to a general maintenance working party.

The biggest project was to develop a wetland area around the Stychbrook. This will be a huge piece of work, likely to take 2 years to complete. It was agreed to raise this at the AGM and ask for volunteers from the membership to help with the work.

Action: DL to include on AGM agenda.

Another project was to establish a sensory garden. This would meet social prescribing requirements and was likely to attract support from the membership as well as encouraging visitors. Good signage would be needed to the garden from Parys Road and it would need to be accessible for wheelchairs and people with restricted mobility. This may also attract funding and further research was needed.

AOB:

The suggestion of using an ecological alternative to spraying chemical weed killer was not supported.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be the AGM on 20th September.

The next committee meeting will be held on 8th November, 7.30 pm at 23 Charlton Rise.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.50.