

Gallows Bank Trust

Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 15th March 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, Kate Adams (KA), Trice Astill (TA), and Brian Smart (BS).

Apologies: Lesley Smart and Heather Price.

Minutes of Past Meeting

The Minutes from the last meeting held on 19th April 2022 were agreed.

Matters Arising:

Litter Pick: Kate Adams was still keen to do regular litter-picks – subject to be discussed under AOB.

Chairman's Report:

Dave Davies reported that various works have been carried out over the summer and winter months with more planned, although the summer work usually concentrates on grass cutting.

During the summer it was noticed that a new Spring had appeared at the top of the mud path which could form the basis of a wetland/bog area. At the AGM it was agreed to carry out works to develop that area but as the Spring appears to have dried up the work will be suspended. KA agreed to do a regular check.

Action: KA to check on new Spring.

The wildflower area was sown last year but was overtaken by weeds, which have since been cut back and sprayed. Dave will harrow the area to churn up the seeds but it is recognised that it can take some time for a wildflower area to be established. The poppies which did bloom last year made a lovely show and all agreed it was worth waiting to see what developed.

It was noted there had been a lot of Yellow Rattle at the top of the Bank, near Rockspring Centre, last summer as well as clovers and fine grasses coming through.

During the past year, Dave has secured funding from Veolia and Tesco. The Veolia grant of £560 was for the wildflower area; the Tesco grant of £2,000 was for general use. Some of that money has been used for pollarding the willows and some scrub clearance to facilitate planting eight oak trees from Peter Norman across the top of the Bank. KA suggested that the trees should be protected by metal guards similar to those used by Ludlow Town Council, and agreed to send details to Dave.

Action: KA to send information about the metal tree guards to Dave

The suggestion to use some of the Tesco grant to purchase 26 trees was strongly supported.

Action: DD to circulate the list of trees.

Dave concluded by thanking Brian for his work and Adrian Hall for donating his time and machinery.

Finance:

Jane circulated brief details of income and expenditure. The total income was £2,561 (the Veolia and Tesco grants); expenditure was £648 for the tree pollarding and there will be a further £200+ to pay for the public liability insurance. The current balance was £8,461.37.

Membership Report:

Membership had remained static. However, it was recognised that there was interest in the membership to become involved in caring for the Bank and that interest needed to be harnessed, possibly involving members in projects.

Projects:

Tree Planting: DD had identified 26 trees of different varieties, all native, including horse-chestnut, almond, birch, maple, hazel, larch, broome. Trice pointed out that they needed to be resilient to climate change. Planting needed to be done soon and it was agreed to contact the membership about a tree-planting working party for the weekend of 25th/26th March.

Dave will organise the trees, stakes, ties, etc.

Action: DD to organise trees, stakes, ties.

Action: DL to send an email to all members. KA to publicise on social media.

Dangerous area at Culvert: The area around the Culvert at the bottom end of the Bank was dangerous and needed to be fenced with a gate put across. This work should be done by the end of April and it was agreed to talk to the volunteers at the tree planting to see if they would be interested and to put out an appeal for help if needed.

BMX Track: This was now no longer in use by the bikers, but was used by walkers. To be safe, the holes in the track need to be filled in and the track itself levelled out to create a woodland walk. This could be another project for the membership to be involved in but no time was set for the work.

Signage: It was agreed to look at replacing the signage with an information board, and to consider setting up a photo competition, the best of which would be featured on the board. DD said he could supply a map of the Bank.

Action: KA to put details of the competition on the Gallows Bank facebook page.

Action: DD to supply a map of the Bank.

Picnic Area: To look at replacing the benches and tables in due course.

Date/Venue of the AGM:

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 20th September, venue to be confirmed. DD to bring the site-plan to the AGM.

Action: DL to contact the Feathers.

AOB:

Litter-Pick: It was agreed this was a good activity which could involve a range of people/ages to be held during the Easter school holidays. KA agreed to contact Rich Morley of the South Shropshire Youth Forum and Shropshire Council about the possibility of borrowing the litter-pick equipment. DL agreed to contact Mike Beazley of Pride of Place to find out if he could help and/or loan any equipment.

Action: KA to contact Rich Morley of the South Shropshire Youth Forum and Shropshire Council.

Action: DL to contact Mike Beazley.

Constitution: DL pointed out that the Constitution stipulated there should be three committee meetings per year plus the AGM. It was agreed to hold meetings in March/April (pre-growing season); May/June (mid-growing season) and October (post-growing season).

General: DL had been approached by Tracey Huffer concerning a Connexus tenant at 32 Milton Road where brambles were encroaching from the Bank into the garden and whether the Trustees could clear them. It was agreed this was not the responsibility of the Bank.

Action: DL to inform Tracey Huffer.

Green Festival: Trice will have a stall at the Green Festival for the Wildlife Trust and suggested it would be a good opportunity to raise the profile of Gallows Bank to have some leaflets and information available.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on 25th May, 7.30 pm at 23 Charlton Rise.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.55.