

KWA MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13/04/04

PRESENT: Clive Atkins, Maggie Cook, Victor Jones, Pauline Lyon, Jenny Monk, Rachel McCafferty

APOLOGIES: Carol Banks, Katharine Collyer

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: These were accepted as read

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- BROKEN FENCING – VJ has spoken to the manager of the Knolls Nursing Home who has agreed to have the fencing re erected. He also found out that the Knolls Nursing Home has applied for a 6-8 bedroom extension (this will extend no further than the car park because of the Redwood trees).
- STRIMMER/BUSHCUTTER has yet to be collected. VJ and RMcC will do this.
- BINS FOR DOG WASTE VJ has spoken to Andy Jones re increasing the number of bins around the wood and he has been asked by Katharine Collyer to post around the wood some notices about dog-fouling. **Action VJ/RM**

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:

- VJ has applied, along with the GST, for a substantial grant (possibly as much as £25000) to enable the management plan to be implemented. The approved management plan and support from the SBDC are prerequisites. The Knolls Wood is looked after by SBDC, Mid Beds and the County Council. **Action VJ**
- The presentation of the KWA logo prizes went very well on Tuesday 30th March in spite of the last minute discovery that Heathwood School had not submitted any designs. On the day VJ was able to discuss with the Head teacher of Doverly Down the ideas about walkways around the school and the wood. VJ will write a letter of thanks to the sponsors. This is particularly important as the sponsors' names were not included in the newspaper article. **Action VJ**
- VJ was also able to point out the damage which has been caused some children. Andy Jones will get SBDC to circulate parents/residents regarding this damage. **Action AJ**
- Both Heathwood and Doverly are very interested in becoming more involved with the KWA. Heathwood already has a gardening club and VJ has asked if they would be interested in helping out with the planting of spring bulbs etc. This would help to educate and involve the local children.
- VJ will laminate all designs and return them to the children **Action VJ**

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

Although we have two accounts there is not a great deal of money in them. The subs will soon be collected. A grant of £2500 be a great boost to the funds!

KNOLLS WOOD

- Rachel McCafferty has devised the new management plan
- John Dunne has compiled 19 pages of historical information and technical information and has reformatted it so that it can go on the website. Thanks to John for this.
- Beech Avenue will be selectively pollarded

AGM

The restaurant at Stockgrove will be open for business by the end of April so Rachel will check if it can be used for one of the evenings suggested for the AGM (Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th or Thursday 20th May). She will contact VJ about this and the AGM will be publicised in the Spring Newsletter. **Action RM**

REPORT FROM WARDEN RACHEL McCAFFERTY

Rachel reported that the management plan has been read and approved by her colleagues. She explained her new role as permanent ranger for Knolls Wood. Katharine Collyer is now a full-time project officer and does no practical work. She concentrates on the whole of Leighton Buzzard, including the sand pits. Rachel is now the main contact regarding practical work and working parties. She will pursue the LNR status and anything practical. Voluntary Warden Badges were distributed at the meeting to the committee members.

The next newsletter should contain another membership form for those who have not already completed one. The AGM will be a good opportunity to hand out more.

Action MC

SPRING NEWSLETTER

This should contain items about the following

1. The new logo
2. LNR status update
3. The new management plan will soon be on the website
4. Introduction to Rachel and advance notice of next working party
5. New notices about dog-fouling
6. SBDC will soon be pollarding trees in Beech Avenue
7. Notice about the 60 foot high Scots Pine which had to be made safe
8. AGM date and venue
9. Subscriptions - £5 per household. If people wish to pay by cheque, they need to make it payable to KWA and deliver it to 57 Redwood Glade or bring it to the AGM in May.

Action MC

AOB

1. Suggestion from JM that the rangers attend to the removal of brambles and other weeds before cutting down the rhododendrons. The perception of Redwood Glade residents is that rhododendrons are attractive and people resent the eradication of those while other plants, which are essentially weeds, are left to thrive.
2. VJ will write a letter to say that the KWA is handing over the strimmer/bushcutter to the GST **Action VJ**
3. MC brought up the issue of a large dog barking constantly (including throughout the night) in the region of the top end of Redwood Glade (probably from Villa Beitchabab). SBDC should be contacted in the first instance about this.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8pm on Tuesday June 8th at 61 Redwood Glade (home of Pauline Lyon)