

Group Meeting Wednesday 7th June 2023 6.30 pm
Skipton Town Council Offices
Town Hall, High Street, Skipton BD23 1FD

Present: - Chris Rose, Liz Simson, Alison Stewart, Lynne Adams, Steve Adams, Jean Williams, Mark Williams, Graham Shuttleworth, Steve Warren, Ed Whittaker and Jenny Dean.

1 Apologies

Paul and Lucy Irven

2 Minutes from last meeting held on the 1st March 2023

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Jenny reported on the request from the last meeting to find out how frequently the dog bins are emptied- they are emptied weekly year-round.

3 Financial Update

It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Lynne and Steve Adams would take on the role of Treasurer from the end of June. Lynne Adams would be the signatory on the bank account. The three signatories would therefore be Chris Rose, Jenny Dean and Lynne Adams. Jenny would speak with the Town Council Finance Manager, who has been liaising with the bank regarding the signatories on the bank account. The three signatories would then be the Chair, Treasurer, and the Secretary.

The Insurance is up for renewal at the beginning of July. The Town Council will if necessary, pay the insurance and recoup the cost from the Wilderness when access to the account has been arranged.

4 Aire River Trust Volunteers

The Aire River Trust have been in contact to introduce Aire Rivers Trust and their work along the Aire and its tributaries. As one of the things the Trust do is build partnerships with groups that care for wetland habitats along the river system.

Skipton is an area they would love to carry out more volunteer events and provide support to groups to better look after the beck system. They hope the Friends of the Wilderness could be part of this and help us identify future projects we could carry out on Waller Hill Beck.

Jenny will invite Sam from the Aire River Trust to the next meeting, and the group would be happy to work with their volunteers in the future.

5 Environment Agency and water quality

Jenny had reported an issue with water quality, identified by Alison, to the environment agency (Ref number 2149055), and will chase up with them if they have found any problems. Mark will have a look at the planning details for the building site up stream to see what measures should be in place on the site.

Steve reported that he is concerned regarding the 'duck pond' area being over grown. Jenny has also reported this to the environment agency.

There have also been many sightings of rats. Jenny will speak to the pest control company that the Council use to see if they are able to offer the group any advice.

6 Website

Jenny updated the group that as yet she has not been able to re buy the old domain name. The Group agreed to give it one more go and then if not to purchase a new domain name. theskiptonwilderness.co.uk is available and is currently £0.01 for the first year, and then a charge for the following years costing approximately £20-30 depending on which domain name is purchased. Agreed that Jenny would arrange this.

Alison reported that she has recently used Wix to build a website, and it had been easy to set up.

7 AOB

Thanks was expressed to Mark and Dale for fixing the bench when it was damaged last week. Everyone was encouraged to report issues if they are aware of them. Agreed that it isn't possible to stop all incidents of vandalism, but any problems should be rectified as soon as possible. There is minimal litter in the Wilderness at the moment.

Meeting Closed 19:30pm

Alison gave an update on Forest School and talked about how the nursery have used the Wilderness as a back drop on some of their videos on the Nursery YouTube channel. One can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UYDbzweXn8>

There was a discussion about putting together a rota for maintenance from September- to be discussed at the next meeting.

Graham asked if a contacts list could be circulated so that group members have each other's contact details. Jenny will circulate a form giving permission and will circulate a contacts list.

Next Meeting 30th August 2023 at 18:30pm