

**Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Staveley Nature Reserve Liaison Group meeting held at Staveley and Copgrove Village Hall on November 8th 2016.**

**1. Group members present**

Dorothy Griffin (Chairman)	Ken Barker
Bill Kirkpatrick	John Thornton
Kevin Atkinson (Parish Council)	Margaret Stringer
James Searle (YWT)	

David Child attended to give feedback on discussion with YWT

**2. Observers**

Two village residents were present. Should any resident wish to contact the Liaison Group please contact any of the members or email [snr-lg@staveley-yorks.org.uk](mailto:snr-lg@staveley-yorks.org.uk)

**3. Minutes of the last meeting on July 12th 2016**

These were accepted as an accurate record of the last meeting.

**4. Registration of interest in today's proceedings.**

DG, JT and MS registered their interest as members of YWT.

**5. Matters arising from previous meeting**

- a) Footpath on Minskip Road to carpark  
KA reported back that the Simmons would not consider allowing their land on either side of the Minskip Road to be used for making a public footpath. A sign on the public footpath sign (not on a separate signpost), next to the Simmons and indicating an off-road route to the carpark, was considered, as was a clearer arrow sign at the pub end of the footpath. BK and JS to discuss these possibilities with NYCC and YWT respectively. *Action: BK and JS*
- b) Overflow parking notice  
It was agreed that the overflow carparking notice in the carpark should be moved to a position near the road entrance. The Parish Clerk has written to YWT requesting this and JS will follow this up. *Action: JS*
- c) Annual Walk  
This was a successful event held in September led by Laura Watson. 20 people came. JS kindly agreed to lead a further walk next July prior to the July meeting.
- d) Fungus Foray  
This was a successful day with a full complement of 12 attendees. It was suggested that a further day next year could be held.
- e) Boggy paths  
DC reported on the discussions he has had with Laura Watson (YWT). There was an extensive discussion of the problem and agreement that currently we are not clear about the causes of the flooding. DC reported that LW had said that YWT would "endeavour to keep the Western Lagoon as low as possible" as a method of investigating the impact of the higher winter levels on the paths. Environmental demands required a variation in the water levels in the winter and summer to maximise areas of mud for wading birds. It was also

suggested that the land levels could be changed to accommodate this – digging scrapes etc deeper and lowering the islands so they can still flood in the winter. JS will follow this up with YWT. *Action: JS*

Following up the discussion on board-walking the boggy paths as one solution it was felt that the possibility of avoiding the flooding should be investigated first. It was also confirmed that any board-walking would have to end at the Reserve boundary and could not be extended onto the North's land.

f) Future activities/study days

A wild-flower identification course is planned for next summer and a winter bird walk for next February. A grass identification course was suggested. DG is planning to go ahead plug – planting with the school in the spring. HBC has again offered wildflower seed which can be used.

G) Hacking of Group email address

Paul Smith has taken action on this and no random emails have been received recently by most members. However one had been received today and will be reported to Paul. *Action:*

*BK*

g) Minutes on notice board.

These need to be in a smaller format. *Action:*

*MS*

## 6. **YWT progress report**

The pond management rotation scheme has started with the help of the Staveley supporters and winter scrub management with that of the Harrogate supporters. Hebridean sheep are now grazing round the West Lagoon and pasture topping has commenced.

## 7. **Chairman's report**

After some problems with the locks and chain on the Church gate entrance LW has now rationalised the system. There are just 2 locks – one accessed using radar and one with a code. Anyone further needing access should contact DG. DG has 2 unclaimed locks from the previous system.

DG has received an email from Maria Espejo-Lucena (YWT) discussing a possible crafts/reserve event next year, using the Village Hall. Her proposed dates of April 1st, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April and December 10<sup>th</sup> would be possible (Dec 9<sup>th</sup> is the Christmas Fair). In general Sundays are freer than Saturdays at the Village Hall. *Action: DG*

## 8. **Parish Council Report**

DC shared his thinking as he had been attempting to put together an approach to the Allerton Park Fund. His focus was asking how the YWT encourages visitors to come to their reserves - "not by car". What is their attitude and policy towards this? JS confirmed that the bicycle rack is ready for installation in the carpark and he will look into DC's question further. *Action:*

*JS*

**9. YWT future plans for SNR.**

Further work on the Tutt is planned with another otter holt to go in. There will be rolling and harrowing of the hay meadow if conditions allow and hedge cutting where needed. Funding has been obtained for an interpretation board in Willow Wood.

**10. Future events in the area - None**

**11. Communications with the parish – None**

**12. A.O.B.**

The risk of the Tutt overflowing its banks into Mill Pond again this winter was raised. JS will confirm that willow spiling is in the YWT's plans for this winter. The necessity for an efficient method of flood prevention here was emphasised with perhaps some temporary protection of the willows being put in place to prevent them being washed away in the early stages. *Action:*

*JS*

**13. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 7.00pm.