

Minutes of the 24th Staveley Nature Reserve Liaison Group meeting held at Staveley and Copgrove Village Hall on October 30th 2018

1. Group members present

Dorothy Griffin (Chairman)	Pam Coatham
Neil Horton (Parish Council)	John Thornton
Laura Harman (YWT)	Margaret Stringer

2. Observers

One village resident was present as an observer.

3. Minutes of the last meeting of July 24th 2018

These were accepted.

4. Registration of interest in today's proceedings.

All group members present registered their interest as members of YWT.

5. Matters arising from previous meeting.

(a) Dog notices

LH reported that she had had no response to emails to Ben re his idea of "painting dog poos". There has been an increase in sightings of cyclists on the Reserve. LH showed a redesigned notice covering these and other topics, all on one notice. These will go up soon on the Reserve and replace the individual signs currently there.

(b) Laybys near entrance gate

LH has investigated the possibility of installing these but the land bordering the road is the responsibility of North Yorkshire Highways. YWT will do what it can in cutting the hedges back well away from the road and is trying to encourage use of the public footpath by the Simmons' house as a safer route to the Reserve (see below).

(c) Event parking

Events will be arranged on days other than Tuesday (volunteer day) and if unavoidable emails will be sent to participants asking them to use the Church end carpark. There are some difficulties with extending this carpark as suggested at the last meeting but there is still a fair amount of spare space there.

(d) Communication with the parish

NH clarified the new arrangements for the parish website etc. – see below.

6. YWT progress report.

There have been 2 events held since the last meeting – a Fungus Foray and a Guided Walk. Both were successful and attended by participants new to Staveley. Areas of grass have been cut and the hay meadow survey once again showed a gradual increase in the number of species. Butterfly reports are now being submitted.

7. Chairman's report

A dead swan has been found. It is possible that it was caught in overhead wires on a very gusty day.

LH has submitted an article to the Parish Magazine ("The Link" - 425 copies with wider distribution than just Staveley). She is planning to do this regularly.

8. Parish Council Report

NH alerted us that it is probable that a Neighbourhood Plan will be undertaken by the village and the Reserve is likely to feature with a contribution from this Group requested.

9. YWT future plans for SNR

LH has applied for funding to WREN for the installation of a new small hide near the East Lagoon, work on the boggy path near the Mill (possible digging out of a ditch, to the pond side of the path, and raising of the path level with the spoil) and the installation of a composting toilet near the disabled carpark. The latter would be of a type that needed 30,000 uses before emptying and could encourage school groups to visit. It was noted that in the original planning there had been some objection to toilet facilities being provided. LH has had positive feedback from her questionnaires (left in hides). These showed 50% of the responders were members of YWT, 90% requested toilet facilities, other requests included a bigger carpark and more seating. LH is considering wider advertising and alerted members to the Facebook group.

10. Footpath to Carpark

In order to encourage visitors to use the safer route from the village via the public footpath adjacent to the Simmons' house, a small brown YWT sign and a Private Road sign (to discourage driving) were mooted. Planning permission would not be needed for these if placed by the footpath itself. DG will approach the Simmons on the possibility of this.

Visitors will be encouraged to use this route in the new leaflets.

Action: DG and LH

11. Future events in the area

None that affect the Reserve.

12. Communication with the Parish

The PC now has its own website and the Liaison Group its own section of this, with a brief history, administration details, schedule and meeting agendas included.

Minutes will be sent to this website. There is a newspage which can be accessed directly or via NH. .Customers can subscribe and unsubscribe through the website – c122 people currently subscribe. There is also a newsletter.

DG will send information on the new time and venue for future SNR-LG meetings to The Link and to Bill K for the local newspaper.

13. A.O.B.

NH reported that the first sixth of the orchard area has been rotavated and sown with a wildflower seed mix for clay soils.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Church Hide on Wednesday morning, March 13th 2019 at 10.00am.