

Minutes of the 26th Staveley Nature Reserve Liaison Group meeting held at the Church Hide, Staveley Nature Reserve on July 3rd 2019

1. Group members present

Dorothy Griffin (Chairman)	John Thornton
Laura Harman (YWT)	Kara Garnett (YWT)
Helen North (PC)	Neil Horton
Pam Coatham	Margaret Stringer

Apologies – none.

2. Observers

One observer (Reserve volunteer) was present at the meeting.

3. Minutes of the last meeting of March 13th 2019

These were accepted.

4. Registration of interest in today's proceedings.

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

5. Matters arising from previous meeting.

(a) The sign to be installed on the Manor Farm fence indicating the exit to the pub etc. has been agreed and is on order.

Somebody has fallen off the gate by the church – unhurt. LH confirmed YWT has extensive Public Liability Insurance.

(b) Wildflower planting by Year 1 from the school has again been successfully completed. DG asked if a small area might be prepared by volunteers next year to make the ground easier for the children when planting.

(c) Residents' Walk. This was successfully led last night by Dave Powell. 20 people attended.

6. YWT progress report.

LH is taking one year's maternity leave until August 2020 and she introduced KG who is taking over her position for the year.

General maintenance continues and thistles need to be tackled this year.

The corner of the orchard prepared and sown with wildflower seed last year has been disappointing. Mostly grasses and thistles have appeared. Ideas for how to go forward in this area were discussed.

8. Parish Council Report

HN is taking over from NH as the PC representative. NH will continue as a Group member.

9. YWT future plans for SNR

The application for funding from WREN has been successful – and there is c £23,000 available for Staveley NR. Planning permission is being sought for a small hide (with ramp for disabled access) to be built near Willow Wood looking out over East Lagoon.

To address the problem of the poor and sometimes boggy condition of parts of the footpath linking the causeway with the church track, a new (permissive) footpath will be constructed running from the end of the stone-capped section leading from the causeway, paralleling approximately the boundary of the Reserve and joining the church track at the far side of the “donkey field”. (ref: map later circulated by LH). The path will be raised with a ditch running along the boundary side to drain excess water under the path through a pipe/culvert onto Reserve land towards the pond. It will be stone-capped and allow access for pushchair and wheelchair users. The existing Public Footpath will remain. It is planned for the work to begin this September.

Some money will also be used for more tools for the volunteers and training for volunteers will continue.

Ideas are in progress to designate the “woody knoll” area next to the meadow as a place for children’s outdoor activities – for the use of the school etc.

10. Future Events

Village Garden Party – July 7th

11. Communication with the parish

None required.

12. A.O.B

There has been some anti-social behaviour on the Reserve. Books and property in the East Lagoon Hide have been damaged. Some 13 or 14 year old youngsters have been seen apparently having a BBQ. Their school uniforms may have been distinctive. The Police have been informed and have logged these incidents – asking that any further problems be reported to YWT and/or the Police so that the situation is monitored.

Cyclists have also been seen on the Reserve and spoken to. Sometimes they haven’t read the signs.

Locks are needed urgently on the West Lagoon gates as these have been left open, exposing the cattle to areas with ground-nesting birds. *Action: LH*

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Church Hide on October 16th at 10.00am.