



SWANPOOL LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

www.swanpool.org.uk

Minutes of the Swanpool Management Forum Meeting held on:

Wednesday 29th February, 2012
The Information Centre, Swanpool, Falmouth

Present:

PL: Peter Lochrie, (Chair & Treasurer), Swanpool Lessee
DY: David Yelland (Secretary), Falmouth Bay Residents' Association
PH: Peter Hartley, Falmouth model Boat Club
GT: Gary Thomson, Swanpool Volunteer Warden
MR: Martin Rule, environmental consultant
BE: Bob Eldridge, Marlborough School

1. Apologies: Beth Tonkin (**BT**), Malcolm Brain(**MB**)

2. Minutes of last meeting (30th November, 2011)

Accuracy agreed.

Matters arising – **PL** has advised Angela Webster, the course manager at Falmouth Marine School keen to run a nature project at the lake involving the removal of non-native plants and general wildlife management, to contact **BT**.

3. Treasurer's report & funding update

Funds in bank account stand at £1706.61

The Forum funds will continue to benefit from the collection boxes on site and in the Café. Boxes are emptied every 4-8 weeks; the most recent one contained £127.

4. Project identification and progress (£10,000 Wainhomes funding)

Work on the Wainhomes development has commenced, it is anticipated that the Forum will receive the £10000 funding approx. 12 months from now.

Further work has been performed on a proposal presented by **PL** at the last meeting to develop the viewing area at the northern end of the lake. The proposals comprise a granite terraced area complete with decking and fencing and would include interpretation boards and, possibly, additional seating and other facilities, depending on budget constraints. Phillipa Hoskin has reviewed the proposals and conducted a site visit. A formal response from her is now awaited.

It was agreed that the project plan should include the next phase of coppicing in the schedule of work as this will add weight to the proposal. **MR** was requested to draw up a suitable schedule for inclusion with the proposal documents.

5. Projects

(i) Coppicing :

Substantial coppicing work has just been completed by **MR**, principally around the northern end of the lake. All work was sanctioned by **BT** on behalf of Natural England

(ii) Capping works:

Nothing to report but item to be kept on agenda.

(iii) Highway works:

Monitoring to continue of the the "anti-parking" posts along the western edge of the lake.

6. Green Flag status

An application has been made for Green Flag status for Swanpool nature reserve (see www.keepbritaintidy.org/GreenFlag/). This initiative was suggested by Clair North of BTCV who visited the site in January. Gaining the award will be good publicity for the nature reserve and will be helpful when applying for future grants.

7. Website update

The Swanpool Nature Reserve website has been refreshed by Martin Thomas. Forum members were asked to review the website, www.swanpool.org.uk, and report back any comments to **PL**.

It was requested that an announcement be included on the website of **MR**'s guided tour of the nature reserve, as part of the Falmouth Spring Festival, on 24th March.

Member organisations were asked to check that their logos are featured on the website and that they are up to date. Any new/revised logos should be forwarded to Martin Thomas at (martindesignsthings@hotmail.co.uk).

The cost for updating the website was £180 plus minor administration fees for hosting, etc.

8. Any Other Business

- (i) A letter had been received from **BT** asking everyone to be alert to any signs of re-emergence of Japanese knotweed. Locations and dates of any sightings should be recorded and reported by e-mail to a.brooke@cabi.org. **GT** has been alerted to this request and **BE** confirmed that Marlborough School pupils will be asked to look for any new knotweed growth during their nature rambles.
- (ii) The “new” pair of Swans have failed to shoo off all of last year’s cygnets from the lake. They are showing no signs of nesting or mating. This is the first time in thirty years that such behaviour has been observed. Experts at Abbotsbury swannery have advised that the behaviour may be influenced by the unusually mild winter. (Note: reported after the meeting that all is now well, the cygnets are gone and the cob and pen are nesting).
- (iii) A broken “no fishing” sign will be replaced. A number of signs will be placed on the wooden posts along the western edge of the lake asking members of the public to respect the nature reserve and remain on the road.
- (iv) There are certain areas around the lake where brambles have encroached and grown to an unacceptable extent. Chris Danks , local contractor, will be tasked to undertake a limited amount of clearance work, ensuring that no other plants/ vegetation is disturbed.
- (v) Surfers Against Sewage have not responded to enquiries on whether or not they will be undertaking their annual litter clean up. (Reported after the meeting that SAS have now responded and have arranged a clean-up for 4th May).

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd May 2012, commencing 3.45 p.m. at the Swanpool information centre.

D Yelland
Secretary