



SWANPOOL LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

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Minutes of the Swanpool Management Forum Meeting held on:

Wednesday 18th September, 2013
The Information Centre, Swanpool, Falmouth

Present:

PL: Peter Lochrie, (Chair & Treasurer), Swanpool Lessee
DY: David Yelland (Secretary), Falmouth Bay Residents' Association
GT: Gary Thomson, Swanpool Volunteer Warden
PH: Peter Hartley, Falmouth Model Boat Club
EL: Esther Lochrie, Swanpool Beach

By invitation from Cornwall Council:

AC: Andy Cook, Environmental Engineer
MRa: Melissa Ralph, Landscape Architect

Prior to addressing the official agenda for the meeting, the guests from Cornwall Council gave a progress report on the two projects discussed at the last meeting.

AC presented revised plans for the capping works which would result in the existing structures being covered with a 1m wide concrete strip edged with 300mm x 75mm Iroka wood timbers. A small run of concrete edging would be used at one end where the current structure was in a particularly poor state of repair.

This solution would make the area safe and tidy without any undue ecological impact. It was also believed that the project could be delivered within budget. **BT** had been instrumental in drawing up these plans and would support the necessary licence application which will now be submitted to Natural England for approval.

To obtain the approval and other necessary consents, quotations, etc. would take approx. 3 months. The work itself would take 3-4 weeks, so should be concluded before the end of March next year, during the trembling sea mat dormant season.

AC and all involved with this project were thanked by the Forum for their work in devising and presenting a very professional and effective solution to this long outstanding issue.

MRa outlined the latest plans for the terraced viewing area at the north end of the pool which is to be financed from the Wainhomes 106 funding (£10000). Basically, the project comprises the installation of stone faced terraces with a central timber faced stepped walkway. It was agreed that it would be desirable to surface the terraces with hardcore/grit rather than leave as grass. Natural England consents and licence would be required for this project as the work would encroach on the water's edge. Also, a bank would need clearing. **BT** had been consulted on the outline plans and confirmed her provisional approval.

A 2m standing area plateau at the front of the terracing was preferred to a narrower strip. It was thought that the latter may negate the need for planning approval but this is not likely to be the case. Once the banking area has been cleared and final plans drawn up a final decision will be made on whether or not a formal planning application will be required. However, the advice given to date is that planning approval will be required as the project involves engineering and excavation works.

The next step is to apply to Natural England for a licence to clear the bank and to then meet on site to draw up the final plans and review cost estimates, contractors quotations, time scales, etc.

MRa and all involved were thanked for their work in drawing up a very attractive and feasible proposal. If all goes well the project should be completed by next Spring.

Swanpool Forum Meeting

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

2. Minutes of last meeting (3rd July, 2013)

Accuracy agreed.

All matters arising covered by items on the agenda of this meeting.

3. Treasurer's report & funding update

Funds in bank account stand at £1375 with a further £121 from collecting boxes to be deposited.

4. Viewing area/terracing update (Wainhomes £10000 funding project)

See report above

5. Projects

(i) Coppicing :

The most recent phase of coppicing was carried out in February. It is proposed that an allocation from the £10000 Wainhomes 106 funding be made to cover a coppicing programme over the next three years

(ii) Capping works:

See report above

(iii) Highway works:

Nothing to report

6. Any Other Business

PL will check if Bob Eldridge is to continue as a member of the Forum representing Marlborough School; if not, a replacement will be sought.

The BBC documentary Urban Wildlife, featuring the nature reserve, was screened in August and received favourable comments and feedback.

EL was confirmed as a member of the Forum

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th December, 2013, commencing 3.45 p.m. at the Swanpool information centre.

D Yelland
Secretary
