

## **FRIENDS OF MIDSUMMER COMMON COMMITTEE MEETING ON 4 NOVEMBER 2021**

In attendance: Jeremy Francis (Chair), Peter Gotham (Treasurer), Rosica Bates, Inbali Iserles, Kit Holland

Apologies: Steve Cheek (Secretary), Kate Hurst

### **1. Orchard**

- 1.1 FoMC have been awarded £15,000 from the S.106 funds held by the Council. Our application covered path improvements, irrigation, plus new raised beds, benches, bins, and signage. A Project Officer will be appointed by the Council, and they will agree with us exactly what the money can be spent on, and manage the work for us.
- 1.2 Newmarket Road entrance: Kit has developed a plan to remove some of the saplings, and mulch the ground so as to improve the soil.
- 1.3 Kit also reported on plans to plant more wildflowers, and fill in gaps in the hedging.

### **2. Communications**

- 2.1 Newsletter: The autumn edition of the newsletter is complete, subject to editing by Rosica. Jeremy will handle the distribution arrangements.
- 2.2 Website: The new website has been launched. Rosica will review this, and Jeremy will speak to Steve about some possible enhancements.
- 2.3 Database of members: Jeremy will discuss with Steve how we can update and use the database previously created by Charlie Hattersley. We need to ensure compliance with GDPR.
- 2.4 Social media: Rosica has access to Facebook but not Twitter. She will try and find someone who is interested in social media to take this on.

### **3. The Common**

- 3.1 Eastern Pound: Natural Cambridgeshire have awarded us a grant of £550 to investigate the possibility of opening up a buried ditch. We are waiting for this excavation to be arranged. Kit is continuing discussions with those who might be affected by this project.
- 3.2 Cycling: Jeremy has received more representations from Prof. Hopkins and is considering how to take these forward. Another member has raised of the potential danger to cyclists and pedestrians at Cutter Ferry Bridge.
- 3.3 Tree: We are waiting for Kenny McGregor to arrange the planting of two more Dawn Redwoods.

### **4. Finance:**

- 4.1 Current position: Peter confirmed that spending was roughly in line with the budget for 2021/22, though he noted that Subscriptions and Donations were down on the previous year.
- 4.2 Grant money: It was confirmed that we will not deal with the money from the two grants that we have been awarded, the money will actually be spent by the awarding bodies (see 1.1 and 3.1 above).

## **5. Membership**

5.1 The secretary was unable to attend this meeting, but advised that we had 24 new members between the 2020 and 2021 AGM's, and two more since then.

## **6. Other issues**

6.1 We are looking for two new committee members. Suggestions are invited from all everyone.

6.2 Leader's briefing: Jeremy and Peter will be attending the Leader's Briefing with Lewis Herbert (Leader of the Council) on 15 November. It was agreed that we should ask to discuss two topics – new housing and the effect on the aquifers and chalk streams, and escooters/ecycles.