

The Minutes of the Fund-Raising Meeting held on 14th November 2023 in the Robin Hood.

Present:

Stephen Bird (Chair), Steve Brett, Ian Kassell, Gina Bajek, Christine Bridgett and Dawn Edwards.

Apologies

Karen Ward and Kim Hogden

The Meeting had been arranged to discuss Fund-Raising opportunities which could be available to the Group.

1.0 Attendance at the Funding Fair.

The Chair gave a brief resume of his and Mr Kassell's attendance at the Gedling Funding Fair at the end of October where organisations were available to discuss options. The feedback being that most of the grants that they would make available would-be community led.

Listening to the organisations / Council representatives it was clear we needed to be very clear on the main objective when we make a funding application and produce a detailed portfolio.

The main organisations taking part were STWA Community Fund, The National Lottery, Easyfundraising, Gedling Borough Lotto and Nottinghamshire County Council Community Dept.

2.0 Treasurers Summary

The Treasurer informed the Meeting that the Group's account balance stood at 1627.24p. The bank account had been opened Nat Westminster Bank on the 17th May 2022. The original funding came from the Parish Council, from the Lambley Village Show in 2021, the sum of £3094.13. Since then, we have received further funds e.g. 2022 Lambley Village Fayre/Show (£1754.04) and this years' Garage Safari Sale at which £358 was raised.

Cllr Helen Greensmith on behalf of Gedling Borough Council gave £250 this year which we'll use towards maintenance of the Nature Reserve.

A question raised in respect of an understanding that there was a commitment previously made by Cllr Boyd Elliott on behalf of Nottingham County Council to financially support the work at the Reed Pond. After some discussion, Dawn agreed to follow up on this question and will advise.

Action: Dawn

There were also several large liabilities in that time notably the renewal/repair of fencing around the pond and the Reserve perimeter fence in order that grazing sheep would not escape into neighbouring gardens or the main road. This expenditure (£2691.00) had been subject to the 3-quotation procedure implemented as per our Constitution. We also incurred expenditure purchasing meadow seed.

Item 3.0 Match Funding

This could involve cost of the volunteers' labour priced at £ per hour doing tasks to offset our revenue stream being small. The evidence of work carried out would be seen from social media postings and photographs on the day e.g. when cutting reeds or raking the meadows.

Item 4.0 Major expenditure items / projects.

These items would be woodland management – The earlier report from Frank Knowles in 2021 suggested that some self-set alder saplings be removed near the pond to let more light in and to give vision of the pond from the Northern footpath. In addition, subject to professional survey(s), pond clearance/dredging may be part of our longer-term strategy albeit would incur significant cost.

The original Tree Work Application (work carried out in 2022) had now lapsed and therefore any further tree work e.g. lopping, pruning etc will require a new Application to be submitted to Gedling Borough Council.

Notts Wildlife Trust had also produced an earlier Action Plan and the Action Plan will be reviewed in conjunction with the report from Frank.

Dawn agreed to forward a copy of the documents the Parish Council had received when they purchased the Reserve.

Action: Dawn

Item 5.0

Arranging the venue for Fund-Raising Community Events for LRPG.

Dawn was asked if the Group would be charged if such events were organised if we were to use the Village Hall as a venue.

Dawn agreed to investigate.

Action: Dawn

Item 6.0 Reed Pond Ramblings / Social Media postings for fund raising.

There were opportunities to use the Reed Pond Ramblings section of the Lambley Life magazine and social media postings, we could also investigate attaching events to QR Codes.

Item 7.0 Funding opportunities for organisations with charitable status.

Several organisations at the Funding Fair suggested opportunities for funding if the Reed Pond Group had registered charitable status.

Dawn mentioned that the Village Hall Committee which organises the village show did have charitable status.

Item 8.0 Community / Nature Grants availability

The Chair noted that a grant from BBC / open University / RSPB – Save Our Wild Isles had closed recently and that BTCV if we registered, made funds available for purchase of tools.

Gina Bajek asked Dawn if the un-named village donor was still willing to give a large donation for a community project at Reed Pond. Dawn agreed to follow up.

Action: Dawn

Item 9.0 The long-term large expenditure item.

The Group are still unable to find the source of Reed Pond and concluded it must be either naturally spring fed or from the runoff from adjoining field to the North. The base of the pond may have been lined originally rather than clay based.

Dawn mentioned the Parish Council's community led vision – they envisaged more community and educational involvement, however certain aspects they recognised may have health and safety implications if the whole pond area was opened to the public.

The Parish Council's vision for a partial walkway from the north around the eastern edge of the pond to meet the southern pathway would need substantial capital/fund raising efforts. It was acknowledged that installation of a boardwalk/pond dipping platform(s) would require specialist advice and guidance, this will be investigated and factored into the LRPG action planning.

Item 10.0 Maintenance of the Reed Pond overflow.

Dawn was not in agreement that the Parish Council has an obligation to keep the ditch clear and agreed to review (and provide) the documentation held by the Parish Council.

Action: Dawn

Item 11.0 Artistic impression of the Parish Council's vision for Reed Pond Reserve

Dan Lord would be approached to see whether he could provide an artistic impression of aspects of the Parish Council's future vision of the Reserve.

Action: Steve

Item 12.0 Possible Village Donor

Dawn Edwards would approach this possible village donor to see if they are still willing to provide such a large donation.

Action: Dawn

13.0 Other village sources of funding

Dawn was asked if there was a possibility of a further funds be made available from the Village Show in future Years.

As the show organisers chose a different charity to support each Year, she did not think this was achievable.

14.0 Possibility of a Questionnaire being produced asking which events villagers wanted.

Ian advised that Sofia Fullwood had suggested that a community-based questionnaire could be produced in the Parish Magazine to give an indication of Lambley residents preferences and which events were the most popular which we could deliver as a Group and produce an alternative revenue stream.

15.0 The Frank Knowles Report of 2021

The Chair asked Dawn if Frank Knowles could advise the Group again on a consultancy basis building on his report of 2021. Dawn agreed to contact Frank.

Action: Dawn

16.0 Constitution Mission Statement

The Chair was in the process of altering the wording in our Mission Statement to reflect more community-based objectives including health and wellbeing.

Action: The Chair

17.0 Sourcing local meadow seed

There was a kind offer from Notts Wildlife Trust – Mike Walker to provide us with wildflower meadow seed sourced from nearby Ploughmans Wood Meadow but that got incinerated and lost in the extreme heatwave last Year, so our Meadow Sub-Committee had to purchase seed for the meadows. However, they have given us seed this year which subject to discussion, could be applied to a new area of meadow.

18.0 Fund-Raising item

Although no date was agreed for the next Fund-Raising Meeting it will be included as a standard Agenda item in the Group's future Meetings.

19.0 Buffet appreciation

The Chairman expressed his appreciation to our host the Robin Hood for the excellent buffet.