**The Minutes of the 2nd Fund-Raising Meeting 21st February 2024 in the The Lambley Public House.**

Present: Stephen Bird (Chair), Karen Hayter, Steve Brett, Ian Kassell, Gina Bajek, Christine Bridgett and Kim Hogden.

Apologies: Sarah Rhodes

The Minutes of the first fund-raising meeting held in November 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

1. Attendance of the Secretary at the January Parish Council Meeting – feedback

It is assumed (TBC) that Councillor Boyd Elliott is unable to honour the £1,000 Grant to the Group promised originally due to severe budgetary restrictions at Nottinghamshire County Council. However, he produced a document which he forwarded to The Secretary noting there were potential fund-raising opportunities available which the Group could apply for. He suggested contact details for a Group who had been successful in Calverton.

The Secretary had written for these details but has not heard from Councillor Elliott.

2.0 Feedback from the latest volunteering event in 2024

A record of volunteers attending was kept on the day by Christine Bridgett and The Secretary noted he had the original membership list including email addresses. An updated list of volunteers is required.

**Action: Christine**

2.0a Community Events would be publicised by media administrator Kim Hogden on our Reed Pond Facebook page.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 (7.0) Charitable Status Grant availability

It was noted that the Parish Council itself was not classed as a charity, the village hall committee are a registered charity as are the Friends of Gedling Country Park.

3.2 (8.0) Donations, the person who wished to donate to the LRPG will be approached to see whether they were still interested in donating for a project on the Reserve.

**Action: Gina to discuss with Dawn**

 3.3 (14.0) Questionnaire – Investigate the possibility of producing a questionnaire.

Kim Hogden agreed to produce a community-based questionnaire concentrating on health and wellbeing, education and what the community would like to see? for presentation in the Parish Magazine.

**Action: Kim Hogden**

 3.4 (16.0) Mission Statement – re-wording

Karen has produced a draft for re wording of the Mission Statement / Constitution to reflect more community based/health and wellbeing, this to be presented at our next meeting.

**Action: Karen / Stephen Bird**

4.0 Grant Finder options from Nottinghamshire County Council

Stephen Bird suggested that we are eligible for several of these community funds e.g. BIFFA Waste, FCC and the Severn Trent Water Community Fund. It was noted that the closing date for the STWA Community Grant is Wednesday 10th July 2024

4.0 a Match Funding criteria

The Treasurer reminded those present that we have started and should continue recording our hours/time spent on work in the reserve. This information might help with any ‘matched funding’ when applying for grants.

5.0 Projects where funding is required.

At this stage it’s anticipated we would investigate, costs etc for:- hedge laying on the western boundary, engagement of an arborist (for an overall survey). A brief discussion was had in respect of a rolling, 15 year management plan for all hedgerows. In the first instance, Stephen agreed to approach 3 hedge laying companies

**Action: Stephen**

6.0 Other areas of potential funding

6.1 Membership of Trust Conservation Volunteers (TCV).

The Secretary agreed to contact TCV, (formally British Trust of Conservation Volunteers to arrange LRPG membership which is free. LRPG may be eligible for tool grant up to value of £500, albeit not powered tools. **Action: The Secretary**

6.2 Affiliation to The Friends of Gedling Country Park (GCP).

The Secretary would contact the park manager to investigate if the LRPG could be affiliated to the Friends of Gedling Country Park. This could produce a new catchment for additional volunteers.

**Action: The Secretary**

6.3 Go Fund Me Page

Kim Hogden remined the meeting that we have an open Go Fund Me page for the Group. The account has a balance of £120. Kim will investigate how this money could be extracted.

**Action: Kim**

6.4 Woodlark Donation of £125

The Woodlark had kindly donated £125 from one of their recent charity events to the Reed Pond which is currently held by Gina, this will be banked.

**Action: Gina/Steve**

6.4 Community Involvement Project

A suggestion to incorporate a circle of natural wooden benches was made by Kim to promote community use of the reserve. The Woodlark’s donation could be used for this type of feature and the benches could be sponsored opening another source of funding. There would be a need to source the acquisition of material and labour.

**Action: Stephen**

7.0 Larger Scale Projects requiring grant Funding.

In summarising the meeting discussions re potential funding application, Stephen agreed to produce a draft funding/grant application, on the basis that it tailored for a specific need/funding organisation.

**Action: Stephen**

8.0 Fund Raising Events in 2024 – Village Quiz

The possibility of holding another Village Quiz in the main hall for Reed Pond was suggested and Gina and Kim agreed to investigate and report back.

**Action Gina/Kim**

8.0a Cheese and Wine Tasting Event

Christine Bridgett noted that this event was still under consideration, but the Village Hall did not hold a licence for the event. This was put on hold for the time being.

8.0b The Bramley Fund

There are grants like this i.e. the Bramley Fund for producing a community orchard for community wellbeing, but the grant only covers buying 5 saplings and the stakes / spirals for the trees. No action at this time.

9.0 The Treasurers Report

The current balance is £1627, Steve reminded those present that we need to maintain a reasonable balance in our account to cater for unforeseen work e.g. any safety related work in the reserve.

10.0 Date of the next Meeting.

No date was set for the next fund-raising meeting but this will be a standing agenda item on all LRPG meeting. The next LRPG meeting is Monday 4th March in the Village Hall Committee Room at 7pm.