

## WALMER PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of Hawkshill Freedown Working Group held on Thursday 12 July 2018 at 7pm at the Parish Council Office.

**Present: Cllr Mrs M Beard-Gould**

**Mr J Gooding, Mrs J Gooding, Mr E Turner, Ms T Thirkettle, Mr M Thirkettle**

**Officer Present: Mrs K Holroyd**

**687. WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted from Mrs L Gorrington, Cllr D Thompson, Graham Harris and David Cooper. Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould explained that Cllr Thompson had decided to step down from this committee and as a volunteer. Mrs Gooding joined the committee as a non-voting member.

**688. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 May 2018 were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

**689. MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE**

None

**690. THE WILD KITCHEN**

Lucia Stuart, a professional forager from the Wild Kitchen, and her associate Holly Harris an ethnobotanist were welcomed. They had been invited because a small sign had been found on Hawkshill with their insignia, labelling plants and their use in cookery. It was feared that foraging was being encouraged which could be detrimental to the work being carried out on the site. Lucia explained that she and Holly were ecologists and had no intention or desire to cause any harm in the area. She confirmed that her interest was in educating and encouraging people to engage with the land and appreciate the plants and wildlife around them. Committee members were reassured that no harm was being done and welcomed the Wild Kitchen to carrying on visiting the site. However they did request that if larger parties were being taken there, the Clerk be informed.

**691. MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould welcomed volunteers Trudy and Matthew Thirkettle and explained that the committee would like to work more closely with the volunteers and invited them to the bi-monthly meetings in order that work plans can be discussed and agreed in advance. It was felt that in recent months the Management Plan had not been followed very closely but it was important to reverse this. Weekly working parties are not necessary and place an onerous obligation on volunteers. Once per month should be sufficient but this can be discussed at the next meeting. No working parties are to take place until then.

Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould invited everyone to look at the annual plan she had devised in the meantime and bring any comments to the next meeting.

**692. MONITORING**

Mr Turner explained he has yet to undertake his official inspection but on a few informal visits he has noticed several new plants on the west bank. Since the more species in evidence better, this is good news.

**693. PUBLICITY AND EVENTS**

Mr Turner's walk and talk will take place on Sunday 22 July. It has been advertised in Rural Round up, on the Council's web-site and on Facebook and it is hoped this will bring in just the right number of attendees.

**694. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

none

**695. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 27 September 2018 at 7pm at the Parish Office.

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The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

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Signature

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Date