Minutes of the Friends of Swanpool Nature Reserve meeting held on Tuesday 20th February at Elemental Watersports School

Present :

EL: Esther Lochrie, Swanpool Beach Ltd. (Chair)

SG: Sheila Gowers, Falmouth Bay Residents' Association (Treasurer)

TM: Tessa Marie, Falmouth Town Council EEEO

DC: Deborah Clegg, Falmouth Town Councillor

DY: Devid Yelland, Falmouth Neighbourhood Plan

AB: Andy Bates, Falmouth Model Boat Club

PL: Peter Lochrie, Swanpool Beach Ltd.

TP: Tom Payne, Swanpool Beach Ltd. (Secretary)

1. **Introductions and apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Louise Gall

2. **Minutes of previous and matters arising**

Minutes agreed barring a mistake on item 6, should read Queen Anne Gardens, not Queen Mary Gardens.

Matters arising, SG updates to lobbying CC highways for double yellow lines to be placed on the corner of the back lane opposite the toilets, CC highways have now filed the request, but will not currently be actioning it any further. TM and DC agreed to keep pressure up with Viv Bidgood regarding the yellow lines.

3. **Update on charity commission, formation of F.O.S.N.R , bank accounts etc.**

EL reported that the charity, 'Swanpool Forum', had now been successfully decommissioned.

A new bank account through Natwest has been set up under the name Friends of Swanpool Nature Reserve. The new bank account is currently empty due to difficulties in transferring the funds from the previous bank account with Barclays. EL will continue her efforts to make the transfer.

The need for a new constitution following the forums name change was agreed by the group, DY volunteered to draft a new constitution.

4. **Creation of new F.O.S.N.R logo and website –Lilly Turner**

EL introduced Lilly Tuner, a digital marketing student, with the suggestion of her creating a new logo for the group. This was agreed to be a good idea given the groups new name.

EL suggested the amalgamation of the F.O.S.N.R website with the Swanpool Beach Ltd. Website, citing numerous benefits including reduced hosting fees, easy access and the possibility for a contact email address. It was agreed that this was a good idea, EL to liaise with Lilly Turner on the creation of said logo and investigate website amalgamation.

5. **Extension to the conservation area at Swanpool/Swanvale**

SG reported she had been contacted by Celia Downie, a local resident, looking at the potential for expanding the current conservation area around Swanpool/Swanvale. SG asked to consult with her local forums on the matter. DY stated that the inclusion of Swanpool Nature Reserve in the conservation area would not afford it any further protection to what it has now being a SSSI. It was concluded that we will wait and see what happens as there is not currently enough information.

6. **Discussion re model boat cupboard and flooding.**

AB reports of the introduction of new Falmouth Model Boat Club membership cards, and updated constitution and strict new rules regarding speeding model boats on the pool following public concern.

AB expressed concern over the ducking saving barrier rope that TP had installed over the culvert drain at the southern end of the pool, that it was contributing to the flooding of the model boat club store. It was agreed that the barrier was to be tied away out of duckling season.

AB enquires to the possibility of some gravel to be placed in front of the Model Boat Clubs storage room, helping with access under foot in times of high water. Some members of the group subsequently visited the site to discuss, and it was agreed EL would contact Natural England to discuss the possibility.

AB poses the question to when the last time Trembling Sea Mat was last monitored, SG states she went on a Cornwall Wildlife Trust led walk in possibly 2018/19 where it was seen. EL agreed to add this question to her email to Natural England.

7. **Update from Emma Inzani on the work they have been doing with bird tagging at the pool**

EL introduces Emma, Exeter University PHD student, who has been tagging and monitoring herring gulls in the local area. Her studies focus on gaining more understanding into the movement of herring gulls from chicks to adults. Although having been unsuccessful in tagging a bird from the pool, other tagged birds in the local area have been found to move great distances throughout Cornwall, and that a chick hatched in an urban area, is not necessarily destined to become and urban adult gull.

Emma shows the group an example numbered bird tag and discusses her public engagement with local schools, SG agrees to help share information of her work with FBRA.

EL asks Emma for her suggestions on how we could enhance the avian biodiversity of the nature reserve. Emma makes suggestions including willow coppicing, creation of floating islands and the need to keep dogs out of the reserve; specifically dogs off leads within the undergrowth around the western edge of the pool. The potential for fencing and or signage was discussed and thought to be a good idea. EL to add this idea to email for Natural England. Emma is asked by the group if she would like to become a member of the F.O.S.N.R, she agrees, and group looks forward to her valuable input as an avian ecologist.

PL updates the group to current pair of swans on the pool and their struggles in successfully breeding, owing mainly to poor choices of nesting sites susceptible to predators, namely foxes.

8. **Any other business and next meeting**

SG speaks of an issue arising with Cormac regarding the inappropriate felling of a sycamore tree at the south-western end of the pool. Having had Alan Rowe, arborist and fellow Tree Champion independently examine the tree, it was agreed with Cormac that a 2m high monolith be left standing, having had the dead/rotten limbs taken off. This was not the case, and Cormac, having contracted the job out, felled the whole tree. Cormac have since admitted poor communication on the matter. It was agreed by SG and EL that there was great need for improved communication between the relevant parties. TM suggests the inclusion of a lady called Lia, a liaison officer for Cormac be a useful contact to improve communication on such matters, and potentially attend some F.O.S.N.R meetings. TM to action this.

TM introduces a potential volunteer labour force in students of the Falmouth Marine School, should the group have any need for such help in the future it was agreed that this would extremely helpful.

AB reports to the group of the poor condition of the bench seating around the reserve, TM explains the appropriate reporting procedure for such matters on the CC website, AB agrees to action.

When PL stood down as representative on the Falmouth Green Corridor Forum in Feb 2023, ZY took over the role. In the absence of ZY at the last FGCF meeting and past two FoSNR meetings SG agreed to take over the role.

It was agreed that we should look further into rules regarding the use of model boats on the pool, specifically regarding non-members of the Falmouth Model Boat Club. To be discussed in next meeting.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 21st May 2024, pending confirmation from EL.