

Friends of Boyland Common Meeting 26th April 2023

People Attending

Jen Celerier, Helen Green, Linda Lord, Lyn Collett, Pam Ross, Ron Ross Marilyn Hurst.
Apologies from Ivan Lord and Pat Webster

This meeting was by way of a re-grouping after the years of Covid restrictions, and we were pleased to welcome Jenny Celerier to the group.

The reminder, as always, is that 'The Friends' group was set up for the purpose of seeking funding for, and then overseeing the work done to 'reclaim' Boyland Common after years of neglect.

The District Council are deemed to be the 'owner' of Boyland Common and the ongoing management of the Common is the responsibility of the Parish Council.

The 'Friends of Boyland Common' are a voluntary group now working on behalf of Shelfanger Parish Council to address conservation issues. The Norfolk Wildlife Trust will always be the 'go to' organisation for help and advice.

Gemma Walker's NWT email re forthcoming activities, courses etc. had been emailed to 'Friends' on 2.4.23

Topics Discussed

1. Willow invasion of ditches. We have tried to prevent the Willow saplings from colonising the ditches. Jen Celerier offered to help with this job, Lyn Collett offered to identify the saplings to be cut.

2. It was acknowledged that the (so called) information board needed a complete overhaul. Ron and Pam to measure the board and to look into the possibilities for creating a replacement. David Masters has had experience of having durable notice boards made, and the Fatstickman, Gillray Rd. Diss might be able to give a price.

3. Common access gate areas are in a poor state and need remedial work.

District Cllr James Easter has had a word with Highways. We await an outcome.

4. The owl box now looks as though it needs repair. Chris Batey to be contacted to seek a professional opinion. There is the ongoing problem of the nearby tree branch which will need cutting back at some time.

5. The papers and pictures constituting the 'History' of the Boyland Common project begun in 2009 need to be sorted ready for storing as archive material. We will have to address this at some time to create a meaningful and comprehensive archive.

6. There are still some Boyland Common notelets for sale, the picture being a copy of the picture that Roger Challoner painted for the 'launch' event in 2012. In future we may decide to have more printed. The money from the sale of the notelets is being held as petty cash by Pam Ross and at 26.4.23 stands at £32.50 (The Boyland Common fund is held in the Parish Council's bank account appearing as a separate entry).

7. The forthcoming wildflower walk on the Common on Sunday 21st May @ 3.00pm, led by Stella Taylor is a free event, but the 'Friends' have traditionally 'paid' Stella with a box of chocolates. This will be paid for and recorded as a purchase from petty cash.

The Wildflower walk has been advertised in the Cock Crow, on the Shelfanger Village website, and with a comprehensive and informative display in the bus shelter.

8. Pam Ross continues to write a short Boyland Common report for the 'Cock Crow' and to ask for significant Boyland Common events and news to be shown on the Shelfanger Village website.

9. The 'Friends' are updated by the NWT as to events and workshops that might improve conservation practices and skills. Several of the group have taken advantage of these very special learning opportunities.

Pam Ross Chairman of the 'Friends of Boyland Common' 26.4.23

Copy to Shelfanger Parish Council 15.5.23

