

Foolow and Hucklow Parishes - Silence Mine Project

Joint Meeting Held in Foolow Village Room at 2.00pm, Monday 13th March, 2006

Present: Derek Lee, Hester Messom, Richard Johnson, Roland Butcher, Chris Taylor, Dave Mallon, Rebekah Newman, Henry Folkard, Tony Palmer, Mary Bryant, Lesley Ayers, Peter Miles, Patricia Miles

Apologies: Anna Whatley, Dave Martin, Liz Greenfield, John Barnatt, Bill Ayers

1. Rebekah Newman proposed and Roland Butcher seconded that Derek Lee should be invited to Chair the meeting, which he duly did.
2. Patricia Miles volunteered to act as secretary for the meeting.
3. Rebekah Newman reported on the meeting with the Peak District National Park Authority on Friday March 10th held to discuss the viability of the proposed scheme.

The PDNPA representatives were very positive and gave their full support and agreed in the first instance to purchase the land.

The only caveat raised was the question of access and what would be the rights of off-roaders. Rebekah felt that this issue was a 'red-herring' in that off-roaders had no rights of access to the land at present since the land was private and they had been accessing the track only recently whereas the footpath had been in use as such for at least 40 years.

4. The Chairman made it clear that the land will eventually be owned by the body set up in stewardship of the land rather than in the name of the two parishes - Foolow being a Parish Meeting and as such could not own land in its own right.

5. The Constitution

a. The name of the owning body was discussed - suggested that 'biodiversity' be dropped in favour of 'nature reserve. No final conclusion was reached.

b. Discussion about the meaning of "members" mentioned in the proposed constitution and the possibility of subscriptions. It was made clear that the site should be open to all and at no cost and so section 1b and 1c were thought to be inappropriate.

c. The question was raised whether a Trust should be set up with named Trustees. It was felt that this might have to be the case if the stewardship body became a registered charity. Certain difficulties were voiced but it was felt that charitable status would give some protection.

d. It was decided to investigate what the legal status of the owning body should be; a sub-committee was proposed to do this. (Derek Lee and Richard Eastwood)

e. It was decided to leave any discussion of the constitution and appointment of the Management team until the status of the stewardship body is more clearly defined.

6. Meanwhile suitable organisations to be researched for applications for funding in order to:
 - a. purchase the land from the PDNPA ; the site is being surveyed by the District Valuer. Indications so far is that the land is worth about £1500, but legal fees etc have to be added to this. £5000 is probably a realistic amount to apply for.
 - b. provide sufficient funds to manage and develop the site and cover on-going costs.

NB: There are more bodies willing to give grants for (b) rather than (a).

A second sub-committee was proposed to investigate possible grant awarding bodies (Hester Messom, Richard Johnson, Richard Eastwood, Tony Palmer and Dave Martin)

No work can be done on the site until grants have been awarded.

Over/-

7. A third committee was proposed to discuss the management structure and constitution (Roland Butcher, Derek Lee, Peter Miles and Henry Folkard)
8. A fourth committee was proposed to formulate the management aims and proposed access of the site. (Rebekah Newman, Chris Taylor and Patricia Miles) Dave Mallon and John Barnatt to be kept informed by email.
9. Local firms to be contacted for estimates. Marsdens for excavation work and Winston Knowles for pointing of engine house wall of Silence Mine.
10. The Fund-raising group should investigate which Bank is best to use for free service and easy access.
11. A Derek Lee suggested that a 'mission statement' may be necessary.
12. Date of next meeting to which progress reports will be submitted - Friday 24th March at 7.30pm, in the Parish Room at Foolow.

PAM

14th March 2006