

SHARK Johnshaven

Meeting held at the Ship Hotel, Johnshaven Sunday 15th October 2017

Present: Rebecca Chambers, Sue Calder, Maureen and Niall Young, Alyson and Neil Wilkie, Emma Eliot and Craig Simpson, Jim Brebner, Maxine Murphy and Chris Gadd

Apologies: Vera Fillingham.

1/ Tractor and Trailer – The trailer battery needs to be recharged and/or replaced - Niall will see to this before the next collection. Craig is looking into replacing the tractor rear-view mirrors. We will need to organise a proper service for both tractor and trailer over the winter (but see also item 3).

2/ Collections – Progressing well although there is now a shortage of bags. Agreed we should purchase more as many of the older ones have been discarded. Current membership is 90 households.

3/ Tractor Replacement - In the context of improving the safety of driving the tractor a general discussion took place which concluded that it would be worth considering the replacement of the tractor. Agreed to discuss this with Jim Shepherd. If a replacement with a more robust vehicle is not possible we should consider rerouting the collection, specifically to avoid the descent from West Brae to Seaview Terrace which is particularly challenging.

4/ Compost Site – Craig highlighted that the site is becoming more congested and also the amount of wood content in the compost, and that a solution to this for next year will be required. This could be combined with the proposed construction of a back wall to assist management of compost.

5/ Beach Clean and Other Activities – A Beach Clean covering the Johnshaven North stretch on 17th September had 15 volunteers and collected 10 bags of rubbish together with a number of larger items including 2 discarded bicycles. We also assisted volunteers in Inverbervie to clear an infestation of Himalayan Balsam at the river estuary.

6/ NEOS Cafe - We had our cafe on 10th September and raised around £300. The Village Hall group ran one on the 17th and we used it after the Beach Clean for our volunteers.

7/ Other Initiatives - Rebecca visited the Primary School and had an encouraging meeting with the new Headteacher who is keen to involve pupils in what we do. We will try to organise a work party for 29th October to move tractor tyres to new positions in the playground to use as planters, and after the children have painted them they will be filled with our compost. Another suggestion discussed was for the children to do their own Beach Clean on the Friday before ours, with a 100 metre survey completed by them as an educational exercise.

8/ TCV Newsletter - Rebecca noted that the forthcoming Newsletter from the Conservation Volunteers would feature an article about SHARK.

9/ 2018 Project - Rebecca is keen to investigate the provision of nest boxes to help the declining swift population. It may be possible to involve the School in this as well.

10/ Barbecue - Our thanks to Emma and Craig for hosting a successful barbecue which was much enjoyed by those attending.

11/ Accounts - The most recent Bank Statement showed funds of £2633.41 A discussion on the rates for 2018 collections took place and it was agreed to increase the price to £15, with £7 for an extra bag. This should be accompanied by a note explaining the need for an increase.

12/ AOB - Agreed that the Christmas Party should be on 13th January.

Next Meeting : The AGM will be on Sunday 14th January 2018 at 7pm in the Ship.