

Collings Park Trust Management Committee Minutes

22nd April 2025

at Lexdon, Hartley Avenue

Present: Andy Stewart (Chair), Andrew Leigh, Lois Conrad, Dy Taylor,
Liz Rawlings, Maureen Geens, Sam Smith

Apologies for absence from Tony Bray, Geraldine Whitby

Liz was thanked for hosting the meeting.

1. Minutes of last meeting (28th January 2025) were accepted.

Matters arising:

Plymouth Pear: Luke Pollard is still aiming to help reintroduce the Plymouth Pear to the area. A meeting of interested parties (including the Trust) is planned for 2nd May, details are awaited.

Collings Park Playing Field: PCC and the Plymouth and the South Devon Community Forest/'Forest Rising' team have undertaken tree planting, details of next steps are awaited.

2. Health & Safety

The permanent barrier in front of the pond has been reinstated. No new issues.

3. Finance, Membership & Funding

There is **£1,021** in the cash account at present, and the new easy access savings account has been set up with a deposit of **£5,000**.

Membership has improved and now stands at 9 household memberships, 4 individual members and 14 supporters, bringing £696 to the accounts annually.

4. Policies, Procedures & Key Documents

All in date and uploaded to the Collings Park Trust website.

An 'Event guidance for community groups' document has been drafted, but needs some amendments and a simple poster summarising the 'garden code'. Then to be passed to Trustees for approval.

5. Progress and Planning for the Community Garden

- More woodchip is required for topping up paths - Dy to ask Roger.
- Oxygenating pond plants to be purchased when in stock.
- Suitable plants to be purchased for the bog garden - Liz to investigate.
- A new post or similar is required at the south end of the fruiting hedge to delineate the entrance to the garden (due to removal of old fence posts).
- Supporter Pat Dodd has kindly donated two olive trees (which have been planted) plus a rhododendron, which is to be collected and planted.
- It was agreed to cut back a small area of brambles to see if they grow back as more vigorous and more fruit-bearing plants.

6. Future Events Planning

It was agreed to hold a picnic in the garden at the end of July, possibly Saturday 26th July. To be confirmed at next committee meeting.

7. External Events

A roster of volunteers to act as hosts is required for the Open Garden event in aid of St. Luke's Hospice over the weekend of 30th/31st August 2025, running from 11am to 4pm. The gazebo, parachute shelter and display board to be available.

The Trust has been invited to host a visit to the garden as part of the Plymouth Urban Tree Festival, which is being organised by Plymouth Tree People. Andy S to accept and organise a date/time, then seek volunteer support for the visit.

8. Feedback from Board of Trustees

Nothing to report.

9. AOB

- The 'This way to...' sign at the Compton Knoll Close entrance had been damaged in another act of vandalism. Sign to be replaced, but sited higher up the post.
- The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) provides support to small charities and has a range of resources available. Trustees were invited to review their website and consider whether membership would be appropriate.

10. Date and venue of next meeting: Tuesday 22nd July 2025, 19:00 hrs, to be held at TBC (Liz's home (Lexdon) if available, or Andrew and Lois' home (12 Fortescue Place)).