

FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE.

Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, 11 May 2011

Present: Alan, Conrad, Mollie, Andrew, Neil, Andy, Deb, Trevor

Apologies for absence: Kevin, Paul, Peter, John

Minutes of the meeting of March 9th 2011 had been previously circulated and were ratified.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS.

Lagoon Field (Alan) The concrete drain away area of the Lagoon was the property of the developers. A representative would be visiting to assess its condition in the near future. The remainder is under the management of ELPC.

Ragforks were not suitable for well-established dock roots. Trevor to find out more about tools suitable for docks.

ACTION TREVOR

Arboretum (Alan) Watering took three people approximately two and half hours. It was practicable to take water from the brook. It was not known how often trees had to be watered. An interval of two-three weeks was suggested but it would depend on rainfall.

Remind Alex that named plaques are needed. The trees planted between the entrance and the railway bridge had not been provided with ties. Conrad would contact Alex.

ACTION CONRAD.

Commemorative plaques. Deb and Andrew thought Commemorative Benches were acceptable. Andy said that too many plaques might give the appearance of a Garden of Rest. Once some plaques have been accepted, it would be difficult to refuse others. Mollie and Alan suggested that a list of donors should be typed onto paper and exhibited in a secure case on site. Trevor thought that ELPC should be involved.

CARRIED FORWARD

Trim track Alan read out the funding application refusal letter received: insufficient budget information had been provided; a strong case had not been established; other applicants had a stronger case. Alan said that the budget had been prepared by Nottingham Groundworks, who were very experienced in this field.

Trevor said that the FMP application contained a figure of over £900 for the Opening Ceremony. This might have appeared to be a waste of charitable donations. There might be more deserving causes. Mollie was of the opinion that East Leake was regarded as a middle-class leafy suburb not deserving of much charity.

Dog fouling. Trevor had written to Lesley with regard to publicising the successful prosecution earlier this year, without the miscreant's name being mentioned, immediately after he previous Meeting. Conrad suggested a report in the next Parish Council Newsletter.

ACTION CONRAD

Large Willow in Sheep Wash Brook. Conrad said that it might be possible to trim more off when the level of water in brook fell.

Flower, bird, tree walks. Alan said that the bird walk on the previous Sunday had attracted about 20 people and was considered a success. Most birds were in the Hall Field area. Neil requested feedback on species detected.

ACTION TREVOR

Work list for Steve. This had been carried forward from the January meeting and referred to jobs to be done in the winter.

CARRIED FORWARD

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Activities Plan – (Trevor) had been forwarded to the ELPC. A return on what had been achieved and not achieved during the year would be prepared for each AGM. It would provide a ready answer to the question "What exactly do you do"?

Management Plan (Trevor) . A considerable amount of taxpayers' money must have been spent on this Plan, but it was still unfinished after 7 years. Alan said that an up-to-date Management Plan was sometimes needed at short notice to support some applications for grants and charity funds. Trevor's draft incorporating his suggestions had been circulated on the Internet for over a month, with further comments invited and obtained. This was akin to holding a very long Committee Meeting. He had aimed at a single document of MP information which could be given to new members of various committees . The current situation of information in documents scattered over 15 years or in the memories of experienced people was not optimally efficient. Neil had not had time to study it. Trevor said that he had only been able to undertake the work because he was retired. He was responding to a specific request from Paul Phillips. The general consensus was that the circulated document was too long. It was agreed to hold a meeting on Monday 16th May, Parish Office, 9:30 a.m., to settle the matter.

ACTION: AVAILABLE MEMBERS.

TREASURER'S REPORT. (Conrad).

There was a positive balance of £1715.82 . The money for our flower seeds had not yet been received from Rushcliffe – there was normally a delay of several weeks.

Insurance – volunteers are covered in the ELPC contract. 16 – 80-year-olds are also included under personal accident. Conrad said that the BTCV insurance could be cancelled, saving £200 a year. A risk assessment would need to be carried out. Conrad would try to obtain a model from the Wildlife Trust.

ACTION CONRAD.

CORRESPONDENCE (Alan)

Alex had informed him that the notice-board for the Manor Farm Meadow entrance has been delayed until May 19. Alan and Deb would be there to accept it. Alex would be asked to bring ties for trees.

ACTION ALAN/DEB

Alex suggested a plastic grid to be placed under the steel benches in the picnic area. Areas suggested for picnicking were northwest Gibson's Field and north and south Playfield. The clearings in Hall Field were considered too dangerous (vandalism).

ACTIVITIES

Scrub Review (**see Appendix ONE**)

Neil said that work in Lagoon Field should be delayed, because of disturbing nesting birds during June. Deb said that people living near her were losing access to this part of Meadow Park because of overgrown paths. Neil agreed that work on the paths could be carried out at hay-making time. Agreed Neil discuss procedure with Richard and Conrad, particularly in relation to Hall Field.

ACTION NEIL

/RICHARD/CONRAD

Deb asked why routine trimming of laid hedges should not be carried out . Neil said that it was natural to leave these hedges to grow and lay them about every 15 years. Trevor said that this was not farming procedure. He was from a farm and knew of hedges which had been trimmed annually for over 50 years and never laid. Did the 15 year rule apply to hedges trimmed annually or only those allowed to grow unchecked? (Not known). He pointed out that we cut ("trim") Meadow Park grass twice a year. Why was a different principle applied to hedges?

It was agreed to cut back growth from hedges where it encroached on paths.

Trevor said that there was a case for a legitimate BMX track. There was clearly a need and some young people had shown initiative on land which had been neglected.

May activity: Clear walkways. Remove Spanish Bluebells.

Alan in charge

June activity – remove ragwort/docks and cut hemlock. Neil suggested that hemlock should be photographed first, so that progress could be measured in later years. Andy in charge

July. No activity specified. Committee members to make suggestions within one month. ACTION ALL MEMBERS

Carnival. Deb to coordinate table selling plants. Mollie said the 2012 calendar would be ready. Kevin would probably bring his peg game. ACTION DEB

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Tool holdalls had been obtained. (Conrad)

2012 calendar. Mollie said these should be available early next week

T-shirt. Trevor introduced his elegant *naif*MP T-shirt, which had been internationally modelled. There was zero support and much hilarity.

Andrew asked if the damaged notice board from the Bateman Road entrance would be replaced. Alan would enquire if there was grant money still available.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 20 July 2011.

CARRIED FORWARD:

Commemorative plaques

Winter work list for Steve.

Trevor 26th May 2011.

Appendix ONE

Meadow Park Walk-About with Richard Jenks – 28/4/11

Purpose

To review the areas of "scrub" and suggest ways in which Richard could support FMP work through mechanisation.

Suggestions

1. RJ to flail cut the Lagoon area to the west and south of the lagoon in June, removing scrub hawthorn and dog rose and long grass. FMP then to review whether any other (larger) bushes should be removed manually on a workday. This to be repeated each year. Timing before ragwort in lagoon area seeds. Should FMP rake off arisings from mowing??
2. FMP to cut out blackthorn encroaching into Little Meadow from north hedge (any convenient time). Thereafter RJ will cut any regrowth during hay cuts.
3. FMP to cut encroaching blackthorn on east side of Play Field (anytime). Thereafter Steve to cut when cutting Play Field.
4. FMP to clarify which areas of Hall Field (clearings) require annual cut by RJ. FMP to cut access routes into these areas to allow 3m wide tractor and mower to work. RJ to cut clearings annually in early Autumn. Should FMP rake off arisings from mowing??
5. RJ will cut bramble areas adjacent to path in Hall Field if required.
6. RJ will level out hump in Oak Meadow at convenient time after hay cut. FMP to do likewise in Stonebridge Field (latter caused by BMX bikers...)
7. RJ will cut field margin on west side of Oak Meadow (after hay cut). Will also cut Sheepwash Stream bank in Autumn.
8. Still to be researched: ?drain sinking in Gibson's Field. RJ can provide additional slabs to cover the area, but first need to lift stone to investigate under.
9. RJ willing to cut Kingston Brook stream bank south of Play Field (hemlock area...) if FMP would like this to happen.

CO

29/4/11