

## MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015

Apologies for absence: Andrew.

Present: Alan, Andy, Mollie, Neil, Ann, John, Ian, Kevin, Eric, Paul, Trevor (minutes).

**Minutes of the FMPC Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015** were ratified.

### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

#### **Grass cutting Meadow Park** (Neil)

Neil had circulated notes relating to the walk by ELPC councillors and others on 13/2/15. Alan said that the grass cutting contract covered 10 hectares at £2000 per annum for two cuts. It was up for renewal this year. Kevin asked if omission of the second cut would save £1000. Trevor said that ELPC and the public liked MP tidy, at odds with natural development. Paul said that 2 cuts had been specified in 2000 to reduce soil fertility; this might have been partially achieved. Neil said the headlands should be cut in rotation, as specified in the Management Plan. All had been cut in February. He wondered if all could be left. Trevor observed that hedges extended sideways. Kevin and Neil would design a grass cutting plan for this year, and recommendations would be made for inclusion in the new contract. Trevor said that we needed to study the present contract.

ACTION KEVIN & NEIL

No action was to be taken on Play Field. Bamboo on the N boundary needed attention.

#### **Boundary fence.**

Paul said that RBC would not provide a fence along the SE boundary of Gibson's Field. There was open access to MP in any case. Trevor asked if the fence donated by the Kirk family had been subsequently neglected by RBC. Mollie and Alan thought the unfenced boundary unsightly. Mollie asked if any funds from the Kirk family bequest remained. Paul did not know, but whatever remained would be reserved for major maintenance like bridges. Mollie said that Brian Knowles had promised to see that it was maintained. Neil asked if a hedge could be planted as a wildlife project. The feeling was that FMP could not take on more work.

#### **Liaison with schools** (Mollie).

Nothing to report. EL Academy had acknowledged a request for involvement but had not replied further. Lantern Lane was involved and had produced 100 more of the children's leaflets. Brookside children went to Meadow Farm. Presumably they paid for this.

ACTION: MOLLIE

#### **Arboretum (QR codes)**

Andrew had promised these would appear with the tree buds.

ACTION: ANDREW

#### **Open air gym** (Alan)

This concept had been explored in depth by FMPC about three years previously. There did not appear to be substantial support and FMPC are no longer interested. Mollie said that the topic is included in the Community-led Plan, and action by the Parish Council is scheduled for 2015.

#### **Butterfly Bank.** (Kevin)

There had not been unqualified support at the previous meeting. It would go ahead on GCR land and might spill over on to MP.

**Bee World (Kevin)**

Friends of the Earth were offering free seed for 50 square metres, but it had not yet been received.

ACTION: KEVIN

**Kingston Brook Habitats. (Ian)**

Ian would undertake a further survey to determine restoration options. IDB consent would be needed for any alterations, such as narrowing a channel, and resistance was anticipated. Paul said the IDB were planning a survey later this year and would be constructing a flood model. Ian said the Brook consisted of a series of longitudinal lakes, formed upstream of the two E bridges where more natural higher bed levels act to pond the flow over long lengths. The situation was better W of Kestrel Bridge. British Gypsum might be interested because they were licensed to discharge into the Brook. Trevor pointed out that scallop construction was in the MP. Neil thought that this might be undertaken. Ron Hetherington is an IDB representative.

ACTION IAN

**Breeding bird survey. (Ian)**

He and Ann had commenced surveying, following BTO guidelines. 23 species had been recorded the previous Sunday, including linnets, bullfinch and chaffinch. Eric wished to be involved.

ACTION: IAN, ANN

**Sign to Meadow Park. (Paul)**

Alan said that the Green Flag inspector had not been able to find MP easily. Paul said the NCC charged £3000 for a sign on the highway. John offered to supply one for £100, for ELPC land. It was queried whether a Nature Reserve type sign was justified. Trevor thought that the sign should be in the Car Park. Whether supplementary signs on all approaches to the village were necessary was discussed but not resolved.

ACTION: PAUL

**Facebook site (Ian)**

Ian had added [eastleakefomp@gmail.com](mailto:eastleakefomp@gmail.com), password Oakmeadow to his own site. A JPEG of the logo and a mission statement were needed. Mollie would supply these. The site might be scanned by mobile phone at MP entrances. Kevin wondered if it could be attached to the EL website. Kevin would supply fliers to be handed out to people not on the internet. Mollie had supplied some to show houses on new estates. John proposed an MP Day in a marquee. Alan pointed out money loss if it rained on the day. Trevor wondered if British Gypsum would loan a marquee. It was felt that it was too big an undertaking at present, but FMP would book a stall at EL carnival.

ACTION: ANDY

**Green flag (Alan)**

The "mystery shopper" had visited in January. There would be a further visit in the second half of the year. The winner would be announced in July.

**Monthly Amenities Committee Meetings:**

(Alan) No need to attend the next meeting. The grass cutting plan would be supplied to the Committee.

ACTION: ALAN

**SECRETARY'S REPORT (Trevor)**

A Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was circulated and signed. This was a declaration of willingness to act in the interests of the Association (i.e. FMP). Paul Phillips did not sign because it conflicted with his being an employee of RBC. He attends as an observer and to provide information.

The revised Management Plan was due for presentation to the 2016 AGM. He would accept alterations as we went along. They must be short, precise and unambiguous.

A Subscription Renewal Reminder was due. Mollie said that it could accompany a distribution on Summer Walks.

## TREASURERS REPORT (Andy) STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 8/3/15

The balance in the account as at the 1<sup>st</sup> of November was £821.09

Reminders for membership subscriptions went out in December this time to try and get the January anniversary date fixed.

CREDIT	
Initial Balance in Bank	£821.09
MAG PLC Grant	£700
Membership Subscriptions [to date]	£314
Arboretum Sponsorship	£35
Membership Donation	£22
Sale of Notelets/photos/calendars	£7
TOTAL	£1899.09

DEBIT	
Malcolm Lane – Arboretum Lectern	£840
Neil Hunter [New sessile Oak Collection]	£12
TOTAL	£852
<u>Balance carried forward</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> £1047.09

Balance as at 8/3/15 –	General Funds	£672.09
	Arboretum Sponsorship	£375

There is one outstanding bill to be paid - £30, to The Lantern Lane Primary and Nursery School for producing a further 100 copies of their excellent Children's Arboretum leaflet

## FUNDING APPLICATIONS (Alan).

Nothing to report.

## ACTIVITIES

February 14<sup>th</sup> Scrub cutting in Hall Field and/or Lagoon Field.

March 14<sup>th</sup> Dig Bee World extension. Clear scrub Hall Field. Hazel coppicing.

April 11<sup>th</sup> Tidy Electric Avenue. (Weeding unnecessary because of Feb grass cut)

Summer walks (Mollie)

Ian undertook to provide a Bird Walk in May. He would provide a date.

Ann and Kevin would do a plant/insect walk on the first Saturday after Wimbledon Final.

It was not decided if a tree walk should proceed.

Ann mentioned geo caches in MP.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

John detailed his plans for a reinforced willow structure. It will not have an entrance.

Eric was critical of Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Aims and Objectives 2015-2020 V2, circulated by Alan in January. He was reminded of the axiom "Fine words butter no parsnips". Whilst the objectives

were worthy, they were not being pursued and applied. He had attempted to save sky lark nesting sites, with no success. Paul said that a site had to be of proven value. MP was not. National policy had to be followed. Introduction of plants could reduce site authenticity. Kevin was worried that grass mowing reduced MP value as natural habitat. Records were important. Water voles were not present in Kingston Brook. Ian pointed out that part of the golf course was protected as chalk grassland.

Alan pleaded that items for discussion should be submitted to the Secretary in good time. He aims to complete a Meeting in 90 minutes. Decision making past that time can lead to poor results.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015