

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING  
12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014 (7.30-9.15 p.m.)

Apologies for absence: Paul, Mollie, Andy, Andrew, Lorna

**Present:** Committee: Alan, Eric, Neil, Kevin, Trevor (minutes).

Guests: Hilary Morrissey. Lynn Victor and John Roulstone for part of the meeting.

**Lynn Victor**, Southern Education & Community Manager, Notts Wildlife Trust, addressed the Meeting. RBC supplied funding for 10-14 pay days per year, spread over all the schools and community groups in Rushcliffe. She has links with several schools and Friends Groups and can help to link them together. She had established links with Gotham Nature Reserve and Gotham Primary School. She had had links with Mr Dizon, when he was Headmaster of Brookside Primary School, but not with the current headmaster, Mr Kenny, who had been Mr Dizon's deputy. Mrs. Hubbard at Lantern Lane School had requested her to provide a session on nocturnal animals.

Mollie had been contacted by Frances Groombridge, Lantern Lane School, interested in establishing a Forest School in Meadow Park. She had also approached ELPC, who had referred the matter to RBC. Mollie had provided Paul Philip's contact address. Alan reported that the subject had been raised during his meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Office. The concept of Forest Schools had been imported from Scandinavia and is very beneficial to children. Forest School leader training is quite intense; Lynn is a Level 3 trained Forest School leader.

Den building and cooking food on a fire are often part of Forest School sessions – both discouraged on MP. Willow houses had been mentioned. Lynn understood concerns around fires – if other people see a fire they may think it is okay to have one too. Eric and Lynn thought that stoves could be used to cook food in the open. Frances's interest could be a useful link with the school - Lynn will contact Frances and report back to the group.

Trevor thought that there was a danger of repetition (too many layers of management). He would ensure that Lynn was copied in on all correspondence. Dennis Fox recalled orienteering in Meadow Park.

Lynn said that children were most receptive at Primary school i.e. 5-11 years old.

Summer walks were mentioned. Children had to be accompanied by a parent. Trevor thought that school trips by Brookside School were accompanied one adult to five children. There did not appear to be a scarcity of helpers.

John Roulstone asked if there was an Open Day. Trevor said that the Summer Walks were Open Days. There is a village hall open day in April: questions mainly concerned litter, dog droppings and wheel chair access.

Eric referred to the Environmental Plan for the Borough. There were plans to build houses on land in Costock Road where skylarks were established. Lynn advised him to contact Gaynor Jones Jenkins, NWT.

She advised him to contact Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project if he wanted an owl nest box in MP.

**Minutes of the FMPC Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> January** were ratified.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:**

**Notice Boards:** (Alan) the black notice board at the Bateman Road entrance had been seriously damaged by moisture. It was still under guarantee and would be repaired. Its predecessor, the green one damaged at hay cutting two years ago had been welded and was at Cropwell Bishop having PTG fitted. This is instead of glass – scratches can be removed by warm air.

Benches and table painted last autumn were already being scratched. This appeared to be a seasonal problem. There was no point in repainting until next autumn.

**Liaison with schools:** See Lynn Victor's contribution above.

**Arboretum (QR codes, labels):** Andrew had reported that purchase of QR codes was in hand.

**Arboretum labels.** It was not clear whether or not these had been ordered. ACTION ANDY

**Arboretum leaflet (Mollie)** 500 copies were printed by Adlards of Ruddington. There was an error in the graphic. "Patched" example copies were supplied for the Meeting. These were approved.

Publicity: on our notice boards, and a supply can be left in the Library, Health Centre, Post Office, dentists, physio etc.

It should be possible to produce a much simpler child-friendly version. Mollie is will willing to try and requests helpers. Neil suggested illustrations of leaves. ACTION: MOLLIE

**Tree Sponsorship (Mollie)** The number stands at 15, mostly contributed at the AGM. The names are entered into an "Arboretum Book" kept at the Parish Office. This also contains various items of information relating to the arboretum.

Publicity was through the PC newsletter, the FMP newsletter, the village website and the black plinth boards in the park. Except for the PC newsletter, these can be repeated, plus any other avenue members can think of.

**Date of cutting fire breaks.** (It had been decided at the previous meeting that cutting should precede the nesting season). Neil said that fires were an RBC responsibility. Presumably RBC was insured. Trevor asked if RBC/ELPC could be accused of neglect by an insurance company if property damage caused by a grass fire occurs and breaks have not been cut. Alan thought that an access to the badger setts could be cut along the N boundary of Play and Hall Fields. Kevin thought it might be from the NW, outside MP. He reported that GCR planned to clear the embankments and strengthen boundary fences.

**Hedge management schedule.** Trevor said that according to the circa 2000 plans, all hedges should have been laid by 2012: when was the planned completion date? Eric claimed that they had all been laid. Trevor specified some which had not been. Eric said that these were now lines of trees, not hedges. Elms would die of Dutch Elm Disease at 15 years.

Alan reported a successful fire on the previous Monday. A much larger fire would have to wait until autumn, when the wood was dry. Neil planned a small fire in Hall Field next week. He wondered if a hazard tape had to be fixed around it, because of hot ashes. Alternatively, he could pour water onto ashes.

**Live Willow House.** Alan thought that it should be built near the seat at the Bateman Road entrance, with its entrance facing the road, so that any activity could be observed. Eric said that children favour tunnels.

**Monthly Amenities Committee Meetings:** Alan said that there was no need to attend the next meeting

## SECRETARY'S REPORT\_(Trevor)

An FMP box file was in place in the Local Studies area of E L library, bottom left shelf as one faces the shelves. The latest ratified copy of minutes will be routinely placed there.

Subscriptions Renewal letter (Reminder) was due for circulation. No changes or other enclosures were suggested.

ACTION: TREVOR

Members' comments. A lady was having trouble with the MP map. Trevor had suggested she sit on the seat at the Bateman Road entrance, which faces due N, to get her bearings. This tip could be advertised.

Minutes distribution: Agreed to email ratified minutes to all Members. Those not on email could read them in the library.

ACTION: TREVOR

Saturday Activity attendees. Only the total number to be recorded.

## TREASURER'S REPORT. (Andy)

FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK  
TREASURERS REPORT – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 12/3/14  
CREDITS

Membership Renewals [Total]	£369
Membership Donations	£27
Arboretum Tree sponsorship [Total]	£150
<i>Note: these funds will be ring fenced for use only on projects in the Arboretum [We are expecting a further £50 from the East Leake Mens Club]</i>	
Grant RBC , Ron Hetherington[For Arboretum Leaflets and QR codes]	£225
Grant MAG plc, East Midlands Airport Community Fund]	
Assist in purchase of Waders	£100
<b>Total</b>	<b>£986.95</b>

## DEBITS

Purchase of 2 off Waders	£120
Purchase of Arboretum Leaflets	£197
3 off Nest boxes [Eric Bryson]	£21
<b>Total</b>	<b>£338.00</b>

Balance in the account as at 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014

£648.95

Usable balance for general FMP projects *[less Arb. Spon. £150]*

£498.95

Outstanding Debit – purchase of stakes for the hedge laying – awaiting invoice from Neil.

We still have the use of the ELPC fund up to the end of this financial year – March 31<sup>st</sup> for purchasing : Any combination of new tools/Equipment- £350. (Can be carried over).

These can be purchased in due course over the internet and from local suppliers.

Another Member required for counter signing of the cheques.

Alan recommended that Neil submit a VAT receipt for petrol to ELPC.

## CORRESPONDENCE

TCV (The Conservation Pioneers) had approached Alan re renewal of a £38 subscription. Neil thought that this was the new title of BTCV, associated with insurance. This was now covered by ELPC. Alan would discuss it with Andy

ACTION: ALAN

FUNDING APPLICATIONS: Donations received are in the Treasurer's Report.

## ACTIVITIES

February 8<sup>th</sup> Willows. Hedge laying Hall Field.

March 8<sup>th</sup> Dogwood. New Bee World.

April 12<sup>th</sup> Clean up.

May 10<sup>th</sup> Docks

June 14<sup>th</sup> Ragwort

July Trim branches overhanging paths

Trevor observed that MP was included in the village clean up day, usually at the beginning of April.

Was our day on April 12<sup>th</sup> the most efficient date?

**Summer Walks**

2013 figures:

Bird Walk 28 attended

Tree Walk 7 attended

Wildflower/Butterfly Walk 15 attended (NB this clashed with the Wimbledon Ladies Final, which took out several known potential attendees)

Publicity included parish notice boards, park notice boards, village website, a number of posters in e.g. both primary schools (in addition, Lantern Lane parents were texted), Health Centre, Post Office, Academy, Library, flower shop and flyers were left in various food outlets. All Members were emailed.

It was agreed to approach Ann Weekley and Dennis Fox. Kevin agreed to supply an insect walk.

He would approach David Stock regarding a Bird Walk.

ACTION: KEVIN, TREVOR

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1) Alan had sown poppy seeds. More could be sown near the monument. Fritillaries were not a success.

2) Kevin and Alan suggested guerrilla gardening e.g. planting crocuses around the village. They would flower before grass was cut in the Spring.

3) Kevin suggested that no ragwort infested with cinnabar moth caterpillars be pulled. Trevor said that where there was heavy growth of ragwort, it could be cut with grass in July but not harvested as hay.

4) Kevin made a plea for retaining docks. The rare (for this area) white letter hair streak butterfly needed creeping thistle. Trevor observed that density of weed crops varied naturally from year to year.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

Trevor Jones

13<sup>th</sup> April 2014