

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING,  
14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015

Apologies for absence: Paul, Andy, Mollie, Eric.

Present: Alan, Neil, Ann, Andrew, John, Ian, Kevin, Trevor (minutes).

**Minutes of the FMPC Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014** were ratified.

**Minutes of the 2014 AGM** were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

**“Serious concerns” November 2014** (Neil) This referred to a matter from the AGM. It had been proposed to make Oak Meadow the Play Field. Alan said that the proposal had been withdrawn.

**Liaison with schools** (Mollie). Nothing to report. A new headmistress had been appointed to EL Academy. There was a case for establishing relations ACTION: MOLLIE

**Arboretum (QR codes)** Andrew reported that he was working on this. ACTION: ANDREW

**Arboretum (sessile oak)** (Neil) A bare root tree been planted. He was not sure if it was a true native sessile oak. It would be 33 on the leaflet. Trevor asked if the root ball had been separated before planting; two trees from the original planting failed and were found to have tight root balls with no active roots protruding.

**Arboretum (Plinth)** (Alan) This was finally in place.

**Paths** (Trevor) A lady had asked if the (desire line) path from Gibson’s Field gate to Kingston Brook could be paved with stone. It was decided that this could not be done. Trevor reminded the meeting that builders’ rubble aggregate, containing crushed brick, cement, tiles, glass and wood had been used in path establishment in 2012. This had been covered with limestone dust, which was now disappearing in parts, exposing glass in a few places. Alan said that he would discuss the problem with Lesley. A maintenance fund was available from ELPC, but it would not cover major path work. ACTION: ALAN

**Bee World** (Kevin) Friends of the Earth were offering free seed for 50 square metres. He suggested enlargement of the established plot. John suggested that its square corners appeared unnatural. Alternative shapes were discussed. There had been no second cut of grass in the autumn. ACTION: KEVIN

**Butterfly Bank** (Kevin) Kevin distributed his plan for a development to the E of the willows at the NW corner of Gibson’s Field. This was to attract grizzled skipper from GCR. Ian said that River Board consent would be needed, which could be complicated. A suggested Lagoon Field site was not agreed to. CARRIED FORWARD

**Kingston Brook Habitats.** (Ian) Ian would undertake a survey. IDB consent would be needed for any alterations, such as narrowing a channel. A number of improvements were suggested. Alan said that the IDB's priority was to prevent flooding, conservation being of secondary importance. Ian said that some IDB conservation work had to be completed by 2015. Andrew pointed out that removal of trees along the brook was specified in the MP, but had been discontinued in recent years. Ian would look into it. ACTION: IAN

**Breeding bird survey.** (Ian) This would follow BTO guidelines and be completed three times during the breeding season. He had completed a survey now that trees were bare of leaves and found a large number of nests. There were numbers of bullfinch but few greenfinch. Kevin suggested that the exercise could be in conjunction with Brian Johnson's butterfly surveys. Trevor said that some of the scrub was so dense that it would be impossible to see nests. Ian said that the survey would be aural in these circumstances. Trevor had read that following removal of nesting material, boxes should be scalded with boiling water to kill parasites and their eggs. ACTION: IAN

**Monthly Amenities Committee Meetings:** (Alan) No need to attend the next meeting. However, a number of actions that had been promised had not transpired - fire breaks had not been cut: there had been no second cut of grass last autumn: Paul had agreed that a Meadow Park sign was needed and was looking into it. Andrew said that Play Field had never been flattened. He suggested provision of goal posts. Neil was against this – the field provided a habitat in its present form. He wondered if Steve could flail Hall Field, possibly Lagoon Field and other sites. Trevor asked if he should write to ELPC listing goals not achieved, but Alan said that he would do this informally. ACTION: ALAN

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT (Trevor)

November 2014 AGM minutes had been distributed, with Membership Renewal forms. John thought that it was customary to present minutes at the following AGM, but Trevor had checked that the Constitution allowed earlier distribution, when issues were still current.

A Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was circulated and signed by all.

#### TREASURERS REPORT (Andy)

The accounts for the year 1st November 2013 to the 31st October 2014 have now been ratified by Lesley Bancroft, with a couple of details outlined for attention. The main one being that any cheques payable to myself should not be signed by me. As we are still one signature short on the bank paperwork I will finalise these details at the next meeting.

My thanks to Lesley Bancroft for again finding time to audit the accounts and also again for the membership of FMP, and the wider village community for being generous with their subscriptions and donations.

The balance in the account at the 1st of November was £821.09

As outlined at the AGM there would be an outstanding bill of £840 from Malcolm Lane for the Arboretum Lectern. This was duly paid with a grant of £700 from MAG PLC community fund to cover the majority of this amount. Many thanks to MAG PLC for this grant.

This grant has been split in the account with £360 into general funds and £340 to the Arboretum.

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

#### SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT

##### CREDIT

Initial Balance in Bank		£821.09
MAG PLC Grant		£700
Membership Subscriptions [to date]		£278
Arboretum Sponsorship		£20
Membership Donation		£22
	TOTAL	£1841.09

##### DEBIT

Malcolm Lane – Arboretum Lectern		£840
Neil Hunter [New sessile Oak Collection]		£12
Balance as at 8/1/15 –	General Funds	£629.09
	Arboretum Sponsorship	£360

Andy Denker [Treasurer] 8/1/15

FUNDING APPLICATIONS (Alan). It was important that any application for funds should be before the end of the financial year. Anyone with a project requiring funding should contact Alan A.S.A.P. ACTION: ALL MEMBERS

#### 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. Docks Oak Meadow.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS. John,(from Nottingham), said that MP was invisible to visitors. There were no signs indicating its location. Alan said that Paul was already involved in supplying a sign. Notice boards in the village were already full. ACTION: PAUL

Ian made a strong case for FMP establishing a facebook site. It would involve the younger generation. He would trial it. Mollie (Publicity Officer) would be involved. ACTION: IAN

Kevin would prepare a handout. ACTION: KEVIN

Date of next meeting Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

CARRIED FORWARD: Butterfly bank, Hay cutting plan for 2015.