

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING 14th MAY 2014

Apologies for absence: Paul, Mollie, Lorna, Amy, Eric.

Present: Alan, Neil, Kevin, Andy, Andrew, Marie, Trevor (minutes).

Minutes of the FMPC Meeting of 12th March 2014 were ratified.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Liaison with schools: (Mollie) Lantern Lane: Eight children with their teacher, Frances Groombridge, were involved in the work session building the willow house. Class 6 is making a junior "Arboretum leaflet", again with Frances Groombridge. There is a positive attitude towards the park, so further specific projects should be possible. Very willing to publicise any FMP activities, including texting parents.

Brookside: No further contact, but Head always willing to publicise FMP activities

EL Academy: Nothing to report

Benches: (Alan) 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.

Arboretum (QR codes, labels): Andrew had purchased waterproof, white blank labels. Neil said that children could deface QR codes with black felt tips. Labels could not be placed out of reach; they must be accessible. Most children have QR applicators on phones. Linked to Wikipedia.

ACTION: ANDREW

Arboretum leaflet Andrew said that he had received the final version from Mollie, on which to base his labelling

Tree Sponsorship (Mollie) No further signings. Andy reported £160 ring fenced for arboretum. Marie suggested Mollie write piece for E I Newsletter.

ACTION: MOLLIE

Date of cutting fire breaks Fire control was an ELPC/RBC responsibility. It was hoped that the authority would liaise with FMPC with regard to cutting dates, which could be established as a routine annual event.

Live Willow House. Kevin thought that it had been relatively young children -10 y.o.'s- who had done the damage. Alan did not regard it as vandalism per se but much of the initial damage was probably related to the relatively flimsy nature of the structure. John Roulstone would be asked about what should be done with the remains.

Vandalism/Unofficial activities

Neil regarded removal of stakes from the hedge in Hall Field, valued at 60p each, as theft. Damage to the north railway arch continued. GCR would fence it off. Slimming pill packets had been found on site (Alan).

Sowings (Kevin) - good growth this year. Lot of red campion. Exceptional growth of yellow rattle – there must have been sufficient frost. Neil said the docks were not serious in the wild flower ribbon: early growth may have succumbed to frost.

Richard must give advanced warning of when he is to cut grass for hay in the second half of July. An agreement on the subject had been adopted last year. Alan would write to him about it.

ACTION: ALAN

Kevin wondered if formal meeting places could be provided for the various groups of young people who congregated in MP, mostly in the late evening. Alan suggested the benches and tables, but these appeared to be too public. Some of these people contributed to the litter problem. No action at present.

TCV: Agreed not to join. Could do so if the need arose.

Monthly PC Amenities Committee Meetings:

Alan said that there was no pressing need to attend the next meeting

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Trevor mentioned an apparent drop in membership. Alan said that subscriptions no longer formed a major source of maintenance income. He thought that FMP tended to be taken for granted. Trevor thought that people who paid their Council Tax felt that they had contributed enough. Kevin suggested that Mollie and he design a flyer to advertise FMP.

ACTION: MOLLIE, KEVIN

TREASURER'S REPORT. (Andy)

| | | |
|---|--------------|--|
| Opening Balance [from 1/11/13] | £115 | |
| INCOME | | |
| Membership Renewals [Total] | £464 | |
| Membership Donations | £27 | |
| Arboretum Tree sponsorship [Total] | £160 | 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] |
| Grants | £325 | |
| 95 | | |
| | Total [year] | £1091.95 |
| DEBITS [from March onwards] | | |
| Purchase of 2 of 8ft Litter Pickers | £97.06 | |
| Hedge Stakes and Fuel [Neil Hunter] | £54.80 | |
| | Total [year] | £489.86 |
| Balance in the account as at 12 th May 2014 | £602.09 | |
| Usable balance for general FMP projects [less Arb. Spon.£160] | £442.09 | |

We still have the use of the ELPC fund up to the end of this financial year – March 31st for purchasing : Any combination of new tools/Equipment- £350
These can be purchased in due course over the internet and from local suppliers.
Andrew and Alan were recruited to countersign cheques.

FUNDING APPLICATIONS:

Alan's 2013/2014 application to RBC had been made before the April cut off, but had been rejected by Paul because the meeting where funds were allocated did not take place until later!

A large notice board was planned for the arboretum. He would apply to the Airport Fund for support.

ACTIVITIES

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| April 12 th | Clean up. |
| May 10 th | Servicing of arboretum. Replacing hedge stakes. |
| June 14 th | Ragwort removal as indicated. |
| July 13 th | Trim branches overhanging paths. Possibly trim "electric avenue". |

SUMMER WALKS (Trevor)

- 1) Bird Walk Sunday 18th May 9.30 a.m. with Ian Morrissey . Only fixed at 5.30 today. Publicity should appear tomorrow.
- 2) Flower/Insect Walk Saturday 28th June, 2 p.m. Ann and Kevin.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1) Trevor reported that Trent Valley IDB would be holding a public meeting in the Parish rooms at 4 p.m. on Thursday 5th June, in connection with a proposed 2% increase in the water rate. Marie said that top brass were coming from Retford.
- 2) **Play Field:** Nell described a plan for Play Field – a central area of attractive plants with grass paths radiating outwards. Grass to be cut only once yearly. Alan suggested poppies as a four year WW1 exercise. Paths should not be straight, to give a “natural” appearance. Trevor remarked that a similar proposal last year had been rejected by RBC/ELPC. There was no reason not to reapply. Alan to write to Paul Phillips.

ACTION: ALAN, NEIL

- 3) Neil reported rumours of tanker loads of sewage being deposited in KB at dead of night. It was known that digested sewage sludge was being used legitimately as fertiliser – this could be the basis of the rumour. No sewage had been detected in the brook. Neil expressed worries about sewage disposal in an ever expanding East Leake.
- 4) Marie reported that the white line in Kingfisher Way had been painted in error, and was being removed, doubtless at tremendous expense.
- 5) Marie said that she had been elected as the official ELPC representative to FMPC.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 16th July 2014 at 7.30pm.