

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING 15th JANUARY 2014 (7.30-9.15 p.m.)

Apologies for absence: Paul, Mollie.

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

Minutes of the AGM of 20th November 2013 were approved.

Minutes of the FMPC Meeting of 11th September 2013 were ratified.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Hay/silage: Kevin had attended ELPC Amenities Committee meeting on Tuesday 17th September. Neil's hay cutting map had been adopted.

Wild flowers: Neil reported that half of the flower area at the top of Oak Meadow had been reseeded following the flood of 2012. Flower growth had also occurred in the half not sown. Kevin was against disturbing herbage in the Butterfly Area because eggs would have been laid there. He had obtained more seed from Friends of the Earth and planned a new 20x20 metre area near to Bateman Road entrance. There were also plans to purchase and distribute poppy seeds. Alan asked Kevin and Neil to keep Mollie informed of time spent on the exercises. Neil had obtained yellow rattle seed for Oak Meadow.

Neil suggested not cutting grass in Play Field and to sow a large circle of poppies at its centre. Marie thought that this would not look natural and the field had been designated as a play field. Trevor thought that any move to return it to nature would encourage counter use as a play field. Alan wondered if the top triangle of Play Field could be sown with flowers: Neil said it was a coarse grass area.

Coronation meadows were discussed. Their hay can introduce new species. It was decided not to become involved, at least at present. Yellow rattle strategy had proved more successful than green hay.

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

Railway Bridge Occupation and badger digging: Alan reported that the large hole to the N of the northernmost railway bridge had been there for several months. It had had a roof and appeared to be a human den. The badger carcass found under the railway arch was probably a separate issue. Kevin said that news of the badger being burnt had appeared on Facebook. The carcass found on a Sunday had been submitted to AHVLA, (DEFRA), Sutton Bonington, on the afternoon of the following Thursday. They reported that death was the result of massive haemorrhage into the thoracic cavity following a blow with a blunt instrument. Trevor wondered why there had been such a delay in submitting the carcass. Had the badger setts adjacent to the railway been recolonised? Nobody knew. Andy wondered if gold paint on the carcass indicated vaccination. Trevor wondered if the railway arch could be gated/fenced off. Kevin proposed walling off.

Notice Boards: Alan reported that the repaired board was in the shed. The Cropwell Bishop firm who made it had agreed to visit and fit a new notice and glass. Trevor reported that John Roulstone had suggested a sign to MP be erected in the car park. ACTION: ALAN

Liaison with schools: Mollie had reported “no recent activity”. Trevor thought that the offer by Lynn Victor, Southern Education and Community Manager, Notts. Wildlife Trust, to become involved, could be an important advance. He wondered if a subcommittee should be set up to plan strategy. Mollie was away for a month and Lynn would be away when she returned. It was agreed that Trevor should write to Lynn explaining the delay and asking if she could supply dates for a meeting with Mollie, Alan, Lorna and others interested. Lesley should also be informed in relation to the Youth Council.

ACTION: TREVOR

Arboretum (QR codes, labels): Andrew said that he was waiting for money. Alan said that it was available from ELPC maintenance fund. Mollie had supplied a list of labels needed. Marie said that EMA had a general sponsorship fund; the contact was Penny Cuneton. Alan said that funds were often needed promptly; Nature does not wait.

ACTION: ANDREW, ALAN

Arboretum (sponsored trees): Mollie had reported £150 taken to 8th January. Andy said that he had only received £140. A book was being kept in the Parish Office for people to make entries in person. It had been advertised on the website and mentioned in the FMP Newsletter. Marie requested a note for the Parish Newsletter.

ACTION: MOLLIE

Arboretum (leaflet): Should be available by the end of January. Trevor reported that John Roulstone thought that a simpler leaflet should be produced for young people. In John’s experience leaflets could be supplied much cheaper via internet sources than local printers.

ACTION: MOLLIE

Fire hazards: Alan reported that a resident of Bateman Road was worried about the fire hazard presented by uncut grass in the arboretum. Steve had agreed to cut a fire break. Andrew was worried about the fire hazard posed to property by the scrub at the N boundary of Hall and Play Fields. There was a path marked on the N boundary of Play Field whose edges were not being cut. Cutting would have to be completed well before the nesting season.

FMP Tool inventory: See Appendix A. This had been completed by Alan and Andy the previous Saturday. Andy would ask Conrad how many ragforks had been purchased originally. Eric put in a request for knee pads. Andy said that there was no money available. Waders were to be purchased. ELPC were negotiating a contract for servicing of machinery etc and this could include FMP equipment.

Hedge laying schedule: {3g i), p 5, Management Plan}. Trevor thought it important for persons involved in Sat activities hedge laying to know where their contribution fitted into the big picture. It was a pity that a schedule had not been drawn up in 2000. Neil undertook to look into it. Trevor said that routine laying and relaying of hedges about every 15 years was never agricultural practice. Eric drew attention to the recommendation in the Hedgelink DVD that laid hedges be cut horizontally at an agreed height in succeeding years.

SECRETARY’S REPORT_(Trevor)

An FMP boxfile should appear in the Local Studies area of E L library on Monday 20/01/14. It would contain the Management Plan, constitution, handouts from summer walks, map. The publications by Ian Morrissey and David Bridge might be included. They would definitely appear on the library

shelves. Attractive material is requested. The latest copy of minutes will be routinely placed there. The Subscriptions Renewal letter was approved. The most recent new Member had applied in November: it did not appear to be possible to obtain a complete Members List early in a year without risking losing Members. ACTION: TREVOR

TREASURER'S REPORT. (Andy)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 16/1/14
CREDITS

Membership Renewals	£40
Arboretum Tree sponsorship	£140
(These funds will be ring fenced for use only on projects within the Arboretum)	
Balance in the account as at 1 st November 2013	£115.95
Balance in the account as at 16 th January 2014	£295.95

The accounts for the year 1st November 2012 to 31st October 2013 have now been ratified by Lesley Bancroft.

Whist our funds have been low since November we do have access to the maintenance fund which is held by the Parish Council for the specific use on Meadow Park.

We have taken this opportunity to purchase Hay Rattle seeds £210 and some paint which has been put to good use on giving the two picnic benches a spotless new coat £20

Just last week Lesley asked me to come up with some spending figures up to the end of this financial year – March 31st

Alan and myself, also taking on board various members suggestions have come up with the following:

4 Sets of waders £250

Any combination of new tools £350

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

CORRESPONDENCE

(1) **Green Flag:** Alan had submitted this year's application. It was possible that an inspection could be carried out by a "mystery shopper" any time between March and September. It would be necessary to keep on top of litter. Trevor wondered if litter picking should be on a semi formal basis based on a map. Otherwise parts might be missed.

(2) Nicky Mee had requested a 100 word article within a week for Rushcliffe Gardening Magazine. Alan had obliged with 99 words.

FUNDING APPLICATIONS. Nothing to report.

ACTIVITIES

(Litter gathering and attention to any newly presenting problems are included in every ACTIVITY)

January 11 th 2014	Hedge laying.
February 8 th 2014	Hedge laying.
March 8 th 2014	Coppicing? Nettles "Electric Avenue". Dogwood.
April 12 th	Clean up.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Marie reported that someone had seen an adder in a garden in West Leake Road. She wondered if there were any in MP. Alan said he thought it was too wet. Grass snakes were present.

Eric reported that John Roulstone had supplied a wickerwork nest box.

Eric requested that Trevor bring Hedging DVDs to the February session. ACTION: TREVOR

Kevin said that moth trapping was planned for next summer.

Alan said that RBC had a *laissez-faire* approach to hemlock. Trevor wondered if allowing proliferation in MP caused problems downstream. He said that ragwort legislation was to prevent a neglected field becoming a source to neighbouring farms. Its presence in small numbers was not illegal. Although poisoning was more common in horses, cattle were susceptible. A cumulative poison, such as lead, accumulates in the liver even if intake is low and sporadic, until a dangerous level is reached. The toxin present in ragwort (pyrrolizidine alkaloid) and its breakdown products are excreted within 24-48 hours of ingestion, but the damage caused in the liver year on year builds up. Pyrrolizidine alkaloids are definitely not classed as cumulative poisons.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 12th March 2014.

APPENDIX.

An Inventory of Equipment Retained by Friends of Meadow Park
Saturday 11 January 2014

Description	Number	Comments
Green canvas tool bag	01	
Storage boxes, translucent	03	
Red Gloves	08	
Grey/Blue gloves	07	
Yellow/Latex gloves	04	
Safety goggles	10	
Heavy duty goggles	01	
Helmets, safety	10	1 damaged/repairable
First Aid Kit	01	
Waders size 42 and 44	02	
Wellington safety boots size UK 8	01	
Kelly Kettle and accessories in black plastic bag	01	
Loppers	05	
Bow saws, large	02	
Bow saws, small	02	
Pruning saws	03	
Spare blade for above	01	
Billhooks	05	
Sharpening stone for above	01	
Post driver	01	
Picks	02	
Shovel	01	
Slashers	02	
Fiskars weeder	01	
Bulb planter	01	
Hay forks	04	
Post hole spade	01	
Tree lopper	01	Appears damaged
Ragforks, purple	02	
Water butts, plastic 100 litres	02	
Trolley, 4 wheeled, pneumatic tyres	01	

Alan Barlow / Andy Denker