

**MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
15th MAY 2013 (7:30 – 9:10pm)**

Apologies: Mollie, Trevor, Paul, Andrew.

Present: Alan, Kevin, Lorna (minutes), Marie, Deb, Neil and Andy

2) MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The second draft of Meeting minutes of 13th March 2013 had been circulated on 26th March 2013. Committee commented that page 2 – Subscriptions should reflect that members who join after 31st July have their subscription paid for up until the following year, rather than until January the following year.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES, PLUS DEVELOPMENTS.

- a) **Paths renovation.** The latest quote for the path renovation was £2,500. An option of completing the paths and paying back at a later date was declined due to questionable availability of funds in the future. Alan is to apply for more money from a number of sources, such as East Midlands Airport and the Rushcliffe Borough Council.
- b) **Play Field Drainage stakes.** The stakes installed as part of the drainage activity were stolen and never found. There is evidence of youths making a den on the railway bank in Hall Field

Action: Lorna to investigate to extent of the den/ Kevin to investigate the railway bridge in connection with the Great Central Railway.

- c) **Kingston Brook Survey.** The kick sampling survey produced by Ian Morrissey would be available by the 25th May/end of the month at the latest. The 2012 report can then be used to compare the water quality against the report produced in 2002.
- d) **Hay/Silage.** Richard was not present. Alan had had a phone conversation on 15th May to discuss field margins; prioritisation; fauna impact; frequency of grass cutting; sequence of mowing and ragwort control. Alan is to write a formal invitation to ask Richard to join the next committee meeting to discuss these questions further.
- e) **Bee World.** Bad weather had caused a delay in planting.
- f) **Notice Boards.** No update available
- g) **Schools.** No update available. Possibility in the future to involve the local 'youth council' from the East Leake Academy.
- h) **Wild flower subcommittee.** The weather/flooding impacted the area. Subcommittee to wait another month to assess the plant growth.
- i) **East Leake Times article.** Mollie has communicated via email smaller articles for the East Leake Times.
- j) **Community Planning day 23/03.** Trevor had emailed his report on 23/3/13. Snow. A steady trickle of people. Complimentary of FMP. Complaints about litter and dog droppings. One lady was adamant that

notices requesting collection of dog droppings were “not valid”. Attempted to discuss wheelchair access but no interested parties attended.

- k) **Arboretum leaflet.** Draft leaflet was communicated via email on 13th May.
- l) **Erections in lagoon field.** Erections in Lagoon field have now been removed. Further evidence of dens being built on the train banks. Reference to point b) ‘Play Field drainage stakes’.
- m) **Format of meetings.** Deferred until the next meeting
- n) **Future of lagoon field.** FOMP are not responsible for the balance ponds in Lagoon Field. Deferred until the next meeting.

4. SECRETARY’S REPORT

- a) **2013 Monthly activities plan.** Current action is more reactive to the park than proactive.
- b) **RBC/ELPC Agreement.** Trevor had emailed a report on 24/4/13. See Appendix A for amended report. Alan is to invite Richard to the next committee meeting
- c) Subscriptions. See previous comments in section 2. Meeting minutes

5. TREASURER’S REPORT

Current balance: £2707.91 (£581.00 from membership). Outgoings: £2,500 for the paths and £37.96 for the addition of the Alder at the Arboretum. 16 members (out of 130) have not yet renewed their FOMP membership. Membership overall has however been increasing year on year.

Outgoing costs: £2,500 on paths over the next two months; £92.50 on seeds for the wildflower area.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **East Leake Scouts Day:** FOMP did not participate this year. No further comments.
- b) **38 Degrees.** Some members have signed this. No further comments.
- c) **NCVO.** The group had received information about NCVO – national council for voluntary organisations.

7. OTHER REPORTS

- a) Funding Applications. As mentioned, Alan is to apply for more funding for 2013 for FOMP.

8. ACTIVITIES

28 attended the Bird Walk on 11/5. Record turnout perhaps related to publicity.

April – spring clean of the park and re-seeded the bee area
May – Brook cleaning and removal of woods. Litter picking
June – Prune shrubbery. American Dogwood control and tidy the paths
July – litter-picking and cut back over hanging branches
August – No activity
October – Bird Boxes

Kevin has communicated information about Grizzled Skipper training to be held over May.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

a) Pollution in Kingston Brook. Pollution (sanitary waste etc.) from the Seven Trent Sewage works is often collected from overhanging branches of Kingston Brook after a high water event. Communication has started between the Environmental Agency and Seven Trent.

Action: Lorna to produce an A4 summary sheet for contact details if members of the public notice a pollution event after high waters.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

10th July 2013

Appendix A (report)

Rushcliffe Borough Council/East Leake Parish Council Meadow Park agreement of 11 May 2008.

I was allowed to read this agreement in the Parish Office 10 a.m. 9/04/13. Four-and-a-half A4 pages, one of the pages a map. My notes :

1.2 (and map) Outer boundaries and the lagoon are not ELPC responsibility. The remainder of Lagoon Field is. It is clear in 2002 documents that Lagoon Field was to be mown as is Little Meadow. It is not clear why RBC chose to neglect mowing Lagoon Field ; its grass area, originally about the size of Little Meadow, is being lost.

1.3 refers to the Management Plan “annexed”. It is not annexed. Presumably relates to the draft Management Plan of 16/04/08, not finalised until November 2011 (still incomplete because it does not include Lagoon Field).

3.4 "... the BC will pay £3,800 annually, adjustable each 1st April, to meet the cost of mowing twice yearly Stonebridge Field, Little Meadow, Gibson's Field, Bateman Field and Oak Meadow".

3.9 Plan will be in force for 10 years (i.e. until April 2018).

3.10 Plan to be reviewed annually. No amendments appear to have been made to the original document.

4.1 "...the PC shall not under this agreement acquire any interest in Meadow Park either at law or in equity".

4.2" the obligations of the Parish Council under this agreement do not extend to":

4.2.5" malicious damage caused by members of the public or the removal of any persons or their equipment unlawfully on Meadow Park".

We can now be definite on some points we have not been quite sure on. It would be of value for future FMPC Members to familiarise themselves with the contents of the document on appointment. Perhaps FMPC might even be allowed its own copy one day.

Trevor (Hon Sec)