

FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING 16 MAY 2012 (4 pages)

Apologies for absence: Mollie, Kevin Shaw, Richard

Present: Alan, Lorna, Andrew, Neil, Deb , John, Kevin Gibbons, Andy, Marie, Trevor (minutes).

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 14 MARCH 2002 had been circulated and were ratified.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Kingston Brook: (Marie) She was no longer on KBIDB because it no longer existed. ELPC chairman was on the new committee based at Newark. Alan had written to this organisation concerning the damage done to the Brook earlier in the year but had received no reply. John remarked on the loss of aquatic fauna and anticipated deleterious effects. Alan noted that some of the Brook floor was now stony where previously it had been soft. He said that sewage present was from the site near the Health Centre, the result of recent heavy rain.

ACTION: ALAN AWAIT REPLY

Dog fouling (Marie). The dog warden was visiting more frequently and parking his van in a prominent position. There was definitely a dog fouling problem in MP.

Paths ( Alan). Neil drew attention to an (unspecified) rule/law that three quotations were needed by a Local Authority before embarking on any public work. Trevor said that he had approached a company in Keyworth and this second quotation was awaited. There appeared to be a problem with the high cost of crushed limestone. He would seek a third quotation if the Committee desired it. Alan ruled that the money being spent was a charitable donation even though it would be paid to the contractor through ELPC: no third quotation should be sought . Andrew thought that value for money was essential even where charitable donations were being spent.

RBC were not keen on upgrading the entry at Bateman Road: it might encourage the use of motorcycles and bicycles (Alan). They were happy about the entrances near the sculpture and at the top Nixon Walk. Andrew remarked that motorcycles and cycles could easily enter near the Bateman Road entrance, through the "official" gap in the fence near to the gate.

Herbicides ( Alan, Neil) Alan said that both path laying contractors asked immediately why "Roundup" was not in use. Neil was emphatically against use of herbicides and quoted information from Google. Trevor remarked that there was contradictory information of varying quality on Google. Alan said that the paths laid by RBC were originally 1200 mm wide. The plan was to allow grass to grow in from the sides, to create a natural appearance. Trevor asked if the plan had originally incorporated routine use of a herbicide to limit grass encroachment. Hand weeding of crushed limestone caused damage – removal of roots created routes for water invasion causing erosion of the path. He thought that the use of herbicides at path edges in the next week or so would reduce the work involved in path laying by the contractor, by reducing the amount of ground limestone and other arisings to be removed. Arisings containing Roundup might not be a good thing, though. What was the point/expense of laying 1200mm paths if they were allowed to grow over to become narrower paths of an estimated 400 mm in places? Could it be to ensure a

good foundation? John thought that wheel chairs could travel on grass if the ground beneath was hard.. Generally the meeting was not keen on use of herbicides.

ACTION: TREVOR OBTAIN ANSWERS.

Arboretum ( John) Juniper, yew and sessile oak had been planted in April and were growing. The silver birch was dead and the beech had been treated for coral fungus the previous Sunday. This tree may well be dying. John reported that tree identification labels had been received over a month ago. Most of the labels would hang from the lower branches of trees. ACTION: JOHN

Marie asked about sponsorship of trees; ELPC had received requests in relation to the burial ground. Alan suggested that the subject be deferred until we knew exactly which trees were going to survive.

Walks. Alan reported that about 14 had attended the bird and tree walks. Trevor said that both speakers had agreed to repeat their presentation next year and he had sent them thank you letters from the Committee. Kevin volunteered to be involved in publicity for next year. Andrew thought the Scouts could be included and Marie suggested the parish newsletter. John pointed out the dangers of a swamping attendance. ACTION: KEVIN/MOLLIE

Hay (Trevor). In response to a decision at the previous Meeting, Trevor had written to Leslie requesting brief details of the wording of the herbage cutting contract. She had replied that it was confidential between the contractor and ELPC. Kevin G asked again if one field per year could be left uncut Trevor pointed out that an uncut field would look untidy in the winter: when was it planned to cut it? It was decided to leave a three meter wide area around each field, to be cut on a three year rota.(This is already the procedure in the MP Management Plan!). John warned of the dangers of very wide hedges if mowing of margins was long delayed.

ACTION KEVIN LIAISE WITH LESLIE

Notice boards (Alan) New black and green ones had been erected. A green one had been written off by Richard whilst mowing and he had agreed to pay for it. There was some spray paint on the picnic table at the top of Gibson's Field. Andrew remarked that some of the polycarbonate on the display boards was growing hazy and should be replaced. Alan reported that the new installation near the Bateman Road entrance was letting in water. Apparently an attempt had been made to repair it but it was still leaking. ACTION ALAN.

Village community plan.(Trevor) No FMP member had volunteered to go on the committee. No report had been received of the two-day meeting some weeks ago. Lorna would approach Vicenta about it. ACTION: LORNA

Field margins/scrub rota (Neil) He reported clearances in Hall Field. Steve's machine coped admirably. Deb asked if the path the top of Playfield should be opened. Alan wondered if it would help to breach security. Further discussion was required.

ACTION: MEMBERS FROM THAT AREA TO DISCUSS AND DECIDE

Liaison with schools ( Lorna) Nothing to report. Kevin G wondered if FMP could offer nature walks to schools. Trevor reported that 3 year old children were going on regular Nature Walks in a village nursery school. ACTION: KEEP UNDER REVIEW

Bat and moth survey (Kevin G) - would be carried out late June or July. They did not want a large attendance. Moth traps would be set up. He assured Trevor that no months would be injured or killed during this exercise.

Green flag application ( Alan) The date of a visit by the inspectors was awaited. The inspectors would give 10 days notice. Alan would approach all FMPC members for volunteers to accompany him as soon as the date was known. Deb asked if there was any fee. Alan said that there was not. Marie said the green flag logo could be incorporated on the FMP letterhead.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT (Trevor)

Membership stood at 121. Neil suggested that the membership fee could be increased to £3.

ACTION: CARRY FORWARD

#### TREASURER'S REPORT (Andy)

£7846.29 in credit.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Kingston Brook survey (Trevor) Ian Morrissey carried out a survey relating to invertebrate populations and chemical quality of water in May 2002 and produced a very comprehensive report. He had agreed to repeat the survey, but it could not be until September. Assistance would be needed. It might be possible to quantify some of the damage done by KB IDB earlier this year.

Notts Biodiversity Group ( Kevin) The Grizzled Skipper was doing well. Some grant money was on the way to aid the ecology of GCR.

RNCSIG AGM (Neil) He had attended this meeting. Nothing to report.

E LPC AGM May 23 2012. Debbie would mount a display. Alan had supplied a script for her to present and modify if so wished. ACTION: DEB

Conrad's anemones. John suggested that they could be planted in the coppice on the south side of Oak Field. Kevin suggested near the Bateman Road entrance and this was agreed.

ACTION: JOHN

John suggested removing the Spanish bluebells. Neil said that they tend to spread by bulbs rather than seeds, so that hybridisation with the English variety is not a problem. They should be left until Ann had completed her flower walk on Saturday. Kevin had planted violets. He wanted to remove nettles at the bottom of Oak Meadow. Neil warned against the dangers of disturbing warblers nests.

## ACTIVITIES

April activity – clean-up and construction of hibernaculum

May activity – clean out Brook and environs (mainly)

June activity- tidy up garden near sculpture Deb

July activity - Tidy paths and some weeding . Too late ? ?

August – no activity

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alan reported human activity in the wooded area at the bottom of the Bateman Field.

Kevin wanted larger areas of wildflower meadow. This would entail removing turf and topsoil to reduce fertility. John reiterated that much of the soil in M P was deep gley soil which tended to remain fertile. Neil suggested vigorous mowing of newly established flower plants , to encourage rosette formation. Alan reported that major planting work was going on in Loughborough, possibly in relation to the Olympics, and that we should keep it under observation. Deb suggested planting flowers at the North end of Play Field. It was wet, but John said that wet meadow plants were available. Marie said that she received money from the RBC and a small amount could be made available for seeds. Neil was not sure if the green hay spreading last summer had been successful; it was too soon to tell. Green hay seeding involved timing of a supply to match previously cultivated of at least disturbed ground. Subsequently, more frequent mowing than the traditional hay/silage cuts, with removal of arisings, were needed. Regarding Kevin's previous suggestion of a butterfly meadow, Neil thought that it could be sited near the Bateman Road entrance.

Kevin said that MP needed a pond. Alan pointed out the problems. Much effort on pond construction at Rushcliffe Country Park had ended in failure. Trevor said that there had been very detailed email correspondence on the subject during September 2009, before Kevin G came onto the Committee. It could be forwarded to him on request.

**ACTION: FURTHER THOUGHT BY ALL FMPC MEMBERS**

Date of next meeting– Wednesday 18th July 2012

**CARRY FORWARD: Membership fee.**