

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING 16 JANUARY 2013

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

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 12TH SEPTEMBER 2012 had been circulated and were ratified.

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF NOVEMBER 2012 had been circulated and were "approved". They will be passed on to ELPC but cannot be ratified until the 2013 AGM.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Path renovation. Trevor reported that RBC had ruled that ingress of grass from the sides of the recently upgraded paths should be allowed. No routine management was needed. It was agreed that the paths be kept under continuous review and topped up with stone as necessary.

Kingston Brook survey. (Alan) No report had been received from Ian Morrissey, but one was expected.

Broken Glass in Brook. Trevor said that any hazards reported by the public should be passed to the Parish Clerk. FMPC Members should not take responsibility.

Bee World (Kevin) Seed from native plants had been received. It would be planted near the seat at the Bateman Road entrance.

ACTION KEVIN

Notice Boards Alan said that Richard had repaired the Notice Board which he damaged two years ago. He had promised more than once to establish it near The Burrows entrance, but it had not been done. It was suggested that he be sent a bill for a new one. Alan would mention it to Lesley. He could not order new art work until it was in place. The art work should include the Townsland Trust logo, because they had funded its production.

ACTION ALAN

Field margins, scrub rota. (Neil) Several Members were concerned about the late grass - cutting LAST November, particularly because it was completed after dark. This was likely to have caused great disturbance to roosting and hibernating wildlife in the Park. It was suggested that there should be no mowing after 31st October and that it should always be completed in daylight hours.

Grass had been cut near to hedge boundaries, presumably to obtain a maximum crop, without leaving the specified 3m margins. Trevor said that the Management Plan prepared by Paul Phillips stated (Appendix 1, 1) that fields be cut 2x per year, preferably in mid-July and mid-September. Presumably this was a recommendation only – any rules would be contained in the ELPC grass cutting contract and possibly the tender document, which ELPC would not supply to FMP.

Kevin thought that a single fairly late cut would be best. Trevor thought that the hay produced would not be of good quality. Kevin and Neil again mentioned the advantage of leaving a field uncut each year. Trevor pointed out that a three year contract had been signed this year. Alan said that he would discuss matters with Richard, who would be invited to our next meeting.

ACTION ALAN AND RICHARD

Liaison with schools. Kevin said that he would liaise with Ann Weekley. Both had contact with Brookside School. They would also contact Lantern Lane. Trevor thought that quite young children could be involved. Children became increasingly busy as they grew up.

ACTION KEVIN

Wild flower subcommittee. (Neil) The wild flower strip sown at the top of Oak Meadow last autumn had been seriously flooded. Fortunately not all the seed purchased had been sown. The 1/4 to 1/3 left would be sown there this Spring.

ACTION NEIL

Kevin reported that he had sown Birds Foot Trefoil where path scrapings had been deposited in SE Bateman Field. He had plans to repeat the procedure on other piles of path scrapings.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Management Plan update Annual updates had been requested by Craig Taylor, RBC Cultural Services Manager, in his letter date November 15th 2011. Our update to be current for 2013 had been submitted to ELPC in September 2012. They have now ruled:

(1) that the plan be reviewed every three years. Alan said that the Plan was needed to accompany the annual renewal application for Green Flag status, but he thought that a three year old plan was in order. Trevor mentioned his concept of a single document where a variety of people could be referred to for answers. This required at least annual upgrading. He had thought of a document on a central website which could be amended at any time as the need arose.

(2) Remove paragraph 3e ii.(P5). This related to recording the quantity of hay harvested each year. This had been approved by RBC and ELPC the previous year. Its purpose was to provide a long term history of soil fertility. FMP has a scientific role. Trevor stressed the long term importance of accurate history. A recent contribution to our website forum from Paul (surname not supplied) indicates that the fields now comprising MP were probably predominantly pasture land for cattle grazing pre -1939, not meadow for hay production.

Kevin pointed out that (2) did not prevent FMPC from counting bales. Trevor said that this had been planned this year, and the Parish Clerk requested to give FMP at least a days notice of baling. This had not been done – bales were produced and removed the same day with no notice. It is standard practice for a contractor to record number of bales produced, recorded on an automatic bale counter.

ACTION TREVOR

Subscriptions Deb had delivered a written renewal notice, with news of the £3 fee, to every house, rather than relying on e-mail. The Committee expressed their thanks.

CORRESPONDENCE

Conrad Oatey's email regarding the closure of the National Wildlife Crime Unit had been circulated. Trevor described their work. It was agreed to circulate the correspondence to all members, giving them the option of signing the e-petition . Trevor was also to write to Kenneth Clarke on the subject.

ACTION TREVOR

FUNDING APPLICATIONS. Alan reported receipts of £500 from Matt Youdale (Arch Communications), £500 from ELPC, £500 from Town Lands Trust in December 2012.

It would be spent on completing path work plus drainage of the SW corner of Play Field. Both Neil and Trevor suggested that professional advice may be needed on how best to deal with the latter problem. Alan

planned a French Drain and a pipe under the path. Kevin suggested planting marsh plants in the adjacent wet area of Hall Field. Also in a wet area of Stonebridge Field. Trevor thought that the latter area was not permanently wet. This had been an exceptional year for flooding. Andrew pointed out that the N boundary of Play field was almost permanently wet.

Alan was planning to apply for funds from the Airport. Both he and Neil thought that RBC may not be a good source. Timing of applications was important.

ACTIVITIES

January 2013 (12th) Hedge laying. Preparing branches for shredding.

February Electric Avenue. Tidy path in Lagoon Field. Nest boxes ?(Trevor ask Eric)

March Prepare a large square for planting. Remove dock roots. Remove dogwood.

April Spring clean

Persons in charge were not named. Perhaps volunteers can attach their names onto these draft minutes.

Flower, bird, tree, butterfly walks. Kevin asked if publicity had been sufficient last year. Had all FMP members been emailed? Trevor said that this was Mollie's area. He had provisionally booked the speakers for this year. He wonder if we should go for early July, as a variation on May. Alan suggested dates be "weather permitting". Trevor would discuss with Mollie.

ACTION TREVOR

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Kevin described the work being carried out by GCR and Notts CC Biodiversity Group on railway land adjacent to the W of MP. Grassland was being re-established on embankments in place of scrub and trees. The grizzelled skipper butterfly was multiplying there. There was a plan to make a wildlife corridor linking to MP near the SW corner of Gibson's Field. This railway land was not open to the public. Perhaps he could arrange for FMPC to make a visit . Lorna did not think that British Gypsum could be involved, although they did own land at Rushcliffe Halt.

Andrew asked about plans for Electric Avenue. Could the title appear on his map? (Also Kevin Shaw boulevard). Neil said that boundary fencing in the area was very important. Trevor said that this was recorded in the minutes of FMPC September Meeting. He had written to the Parish Clerk about the immediate problem of the damaged fence on the day after that meeting.

Lorna wished to know the frequency of flooding for a project she was engaged in. Alan suggested she contact Keith Hodgkinson. The Drainage Board should also have records. Lorna's project was related to potential drainage problems posed by village expansion.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday 13th March

Trevor 24/01/13