

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING 16TH JULY 2014
(7.30-9.45 p.m.)

Apologies for absence: Paul, Andrew, Kevin, Marie

Present: Alan, Neil, Andy, Mollie, Ann, Eric, Richard, Trevor (minutes).

Guests: Frances Groombridge and Simon Williams, Lantern Lane School.

Liaison with Lantern Lane School (Frances and Simon). A draft of "Meadow Park Arboretum – a Children's Guide" was circulated and well received. Authors' names should be included. Mollie and Alan thought that money could be made available to produce it. Simon confirmed that it could be printed at the school, with money needed for ink etc. Mollie recommended 100g/m² (100gsm) non-glossy paper.

Simon reported major interest in Forest Schools. Details were available on the internet.

Teachers are specially trained. He has a pilot scheme for year 3 (7 year olds). The first site will be in the Electric Avenue area. 10 sessions, Sept-Feb, plus 10 sessions in the summer. 50/50 boys and girls. Site to be left as found after each session. Access probably at the SW corner of Gibson's Field. Nothing is being done on site in Lantern Lane.

Mollie suggested Paul Philips, ELPC and Mike Eliot be informed. Richard said that the development had been discussed by ELPC. Simon satisfied his concerns on fires and toilet facilities. Brookside School are unlikely to be involved because they use Manor Farm for nature study.

Frances and Simon left at this juncture.

Minutes of the FMPC Meeting of 14th May 2014 were ratified.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Hay cut etc. Alan had met with Richard, Lesley, and Paul the previous week. Richard reported that ELPC were largely supportive of Play Field proposals except for the focal point. The field had not been used as envisaged in 2000. He thought that this might be because it was quite rugged and needed rolling, but this was not generally felt to be the case. People generally kept to the edges, apart from dog exercisers and a kite flyer. ELPC were not keen on rotational mowing. Trevor suggested that no non-reversible changes were made. Richard suggested that FMPC put a definite plan to ELPC. Neil has embarked on this. ACTION: NEIL

Richard said that he harvested 7/25 acres of Loughborough Meadow. There was no second cut – presumably the pasture was grazed in the autumn. He leaves Meadow Park until last each year. He regarded ragwort as controllable. That in Lagoon Field could be regarded as a reserve for cinnabar moths, because seeds were unlikely to spread to hay land. Docks were not poisonous but were left by animals from hay. He mentioned touch poisoning of docks; Neil was against this.

Richard favoured a second cut. It produced a similar effect to grazing – a tighter grass sward and weed control - and was standard agricultural procedure. Date of cutting varies with the weather. Preferably late September but could be as late as November. It left the land neat for the winter and early spring. Cutting grass allowed access to flowered areas. Hay making spreads seeds.

Neil said that headland management had not been adhered to. He did not agree with Richard there was a nettle problem. Nettles were a habitat for butterflies and birds. He suggested that nettles be cut early in the spring and regrowth soon after it appears.

Liaison with schools: (Mollie)

Lantern Lane: already covered.

Brookside: No developments but Head always willing to publicise FMP activities

EL Academy: Nothing to report

Arboretum (QR codes) Carried forward*

ACTION: ANDREW

Arboretum (sessile oak)

Andy said a bare root tree could be supplied in November for £66. It could be planted at 33 on the leaflet. The defective tree supplied, not on the leaflet, could remain.

ACTION: ANDY

Arboretum (Plinth)

Mollie reported that work was in progress, but money was needed. Alan suggested that it be placed between 12 and 18 on the leaflet map. Agreed.

ACTION: MOLLIE

Kingston Brook

Alan had had two meetings with TVIDB. The first concerned extra rates for land owners with land on the brook side. It was mainly about flood management, rather than the environment. Eric said it mainly concerned farmers. Alan had not been able to attend a Brook walking. Trevor suggested that Ian Morrissey should be involved in any dealings with TVIDB because of his specialist qualifications and enthusiasm.

Kingston Brook - Sick dogs Trevor had approached the local veterinary practice regarding a query from Conrad. The vet concerned was away until next week. A single case of a dog with diarrhoea had been investigated in 2007 and reported to the authority, who stated that "there was no evidence that the water was contaminated". Eric said that his daughter's dog had been sick the previous summer and she knew of several other cases attributed to contact with Kingston Brook. Trevor pointed out the need for a precise diagnosis and convincing evidence of cause/effect. He would prepare a questionnaire for owners of affected dogs. There was a danger of initiating an unjustified scare.

ACTION: TREVOR

Live Willow House (Alan)

John Roulstone had suggested leaving for now. Tight basketing might be attempted next year.

Monthly Amenities Committee Meetings: There was a case for someone attending the next meeting for hay cutting interest. Neil could not undertake it. Kevin?

ACTION: ALAN

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Trevor reiterated the importance of including Marie and Richard on all correspondence. This had been important in relation to hay as both were on ELPC. Emails should be addressed to the Parish Clerk, attention Marie and Richard.

He also pointed out the problem of incomplete loops of correspondence. This was due to members not replying to the most recent message in a loop, but to an earlier one.

TREASURERS REPORT.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 16/7/14

| | CREDITS | |
|--|--------------|---------|
| Membership renewals/new members [Total] | £479 | |
| Membership donations [Total] | £27 | |
| Arboretum tree Sponsorship [Total] | £260 | |
| Grants [Total] | £325 | |
| | Total [Year] | £109 |
| | DEBITS | |
| Previous purchases | £489.86 | |
| Purchase of 6 off Rag Forks [Living the Life of Riley] | £125.76 | |
| | Total [Year] | £615.62 |

Note: We are expecting a grant from RBC to cover the cost of the Ragforks

| | |
|--|---------|
| Balance in the account as at 16 th July 2014 | £591.33 |
| Usable balance for general FMP projects [less Arb Spon £260] | £331.33 |

FUNDING APPLICATIONS: Alan was awaiting a reply from the Airport for his application for £1000.

ACTIVITIES

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| June 14 th | Ragwort removal. |
| July 13 th | Ragwort removal |
| August | no activity |
| September 13 th | (planned) Cut back branches overhanging paths. Dogwood. |
| October 11 th | (planned) Oak Meadow ribbon tidy and expand. Coppice Gibson's Field. |
| | Benches and table painted last autumn to be sanded and repainted on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis when schools are in session. |

Summer Walks

(Mollie) Turnout was generally disappointing. Alan said that we may get support from Lantern Lane next year. Neil and Ian had volunteered two new subjects. These need not be in summer. Kevin had mentioned moth spotting, but was not present.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ann Weekley was co-opted to the Committee.

Proposed: Alan Barlow, Seconded: Trevor Jones.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 10th September 2014 (Provisional).

- Carried forward: arboretum QR codes (Andrew).