

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING  
8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015 7.30-9.15 P.M

Apologies for absence: Paul, Andy, Kevin

Present: Alan, Mollie, Neil, Ann, John, Eric, Andrew, Trevor (minutes).

**Minutes of the FMPC Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015** were ratified.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

**Rushcliffe Nature conservation Forum.** Alan, Ann, Neil and Andy would meet Ben Driver in the Parish Room 9.30 a.m. on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July. Any other members who wished to attend would be welcomed. It was planned to hold the Forum annual meeting in EL on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**Recording hay bale count.** Trevor had asked Paul for his ruling on the matter, but he was on holiday. The procedure was not so accurate a measure of soil fertility since the introduction of hay rattle. The meeting supported recording number of bales harvested from each field annually. It involved minimum effort and no cost. Alan would ask Richard to record numbers this year. The requirement should then be included in the grass cutting contract.

ACTION: ALAN

**Relationship of FMPC to ELPC and RBC.** Neither Marie nor Paul was present. It was decided not to pursue the subject.

**Grass cutting plan Summer 2015.** Neil presented his map. See page 5. Alan said that Richard would not cut in the first half of July. Trevor asked if the height of the cutter bed was specified. (A high cut spares some flower species). Neil said that it was not.

**Plan for next 12 months and beyond.** Neil agreed that an osiery be included. John thought that the willow area could be expanded and tillage would be necessary. A membrane would be applied and willow planted through it. A hand tiller might be sufficient. Heavy equipment would damage ground in the winter. John said that current willow was not suitable for basket construction. It was not authentic with that used up to the use of plastic. Mollie suggested check with History Society (publication on Basketmaking in East Leake). John would check species/strain required.

**Liaison with schools** (Mollie). Good relations continued with the primary schools in terms of their advertising our walks etc. Lantern Lane obviously uses the park as a teaching resource, whereas Brookside goes to Manor Farm.

She hoped to meet up with Virginia Arnone-Youlton, the relevant teacher at the Academy, before the end of term. Simon Williams had left Lantern Lane to teach teachers in setting up Forest Schools, but would be replaced.

**Arboretum (QR codes)** (Andrew) No negative feedback.

Ann - positive feedback from younger generation. There did not appear to be any labels missing.

Neil reported that the new sessile oak was not in fact a sessile oak. Trevor agreed to draft a letter to the supplying nursery, which would be edited by Neil.

ACTION: TREVOR

---

**Kingston Brook Habitats.** (Ian) Routine maintenance due this month was unlikely to be extensive. He would make suggestions after it was completed. Bank was being undermined following previous attention. Alan said that IDB were not planning major work and would let him know of planned activity in advance.

**Shrubbery at Main Entrance to MP.** (Ann) The main entrance looked scruffy. Brambles were a major problem and might need a radical solution. Neil thought that they were natural and only needed trimming. Ann said that infants in pushchairs had been grasping nettles as passing. Eric thought the shrubbery should be treated as such and kept weed free. Trevor asked if acetic or pelargonic acid sprays were acceptable. Neil said that common salt was effective.

**Dog bins.** Vehicles emptying them were damaging Bee World and hay. Alan would discuss with Lesley.  
ACTION: ALAN

**Willow structure.** John reported more damage, but it was still growing. He suggested a hazel frame, but would leave it for now. Ann reported both positive and negative comments. Ian thought the whole 40 man hour exercise a waste.

**Breeding bird survey.** (Ian) Completed on 25<sup>th</sup> June by Ann, Ian and Matt Coward. 23 species were recorded along the 4 transect sections. Summer migrant species whitethroat and willow warbler had bred. Little egrets and a red kite were noted.

**DOGS ON LEAD sign for Hall Field.** Alan and Andy had erected 3 stake signs, which had survived so far. Neil complained of dens.

**Sign to Meadow Park.** (Alan) No news from Paul. Ann wondered if one was necessary. Mollie suggested purchase and erect ourselves if ELPC give permission. ACTION: PAUL

**Facebook site** (Mollie) We continue to have 100-200 “reaches” to our entries, but nothing like the almost 1500 we got in the early days. It seems that only a steady input of pictures will maintain the sort of attention we were originally enjoying.

Page “likes” are stuck at 150, but individual entries are frequently “liked” by up to 10 or so people. It’s mostly the same names, and mostly resident in East Leake/Nottingham/Loughborough, but the occasional new one crops up.

It is doubtful whether we have acquired any new members as a result of having a Facebook account, but the existence of FMP should certainly be better known, and it is an avenue for publicising our activities. Unfortunately, it didn’t produce any takers for the 27 June walk.

We should perhaps make a proper assessment of the effectiveness of the account after another six months. It’s cost-free, but takes time for Ian and Mollie to input regularly enough to keep it alive.

**Liaison with fire service.** There had been a small fire on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Fire service did not appear to know where MP entrance was. Had been put out by a fireman with a bucket of water. Trevor said that Kevin Shaw had met with the fire service about 5 years ago, but did not know if there was a written plan. Ian said that the fire hazard was partly the result of FMPC policy. Eric pointed out the danger from the railway line. Alan reported children building wooden dens and lighting fires in them. Alan would discuss with Lesley.  
ACTION: ALAN

**Hay rattle seed.** Neil needed 1kg, costing about £200, for the flower strip on Oak Meadow. He would need to speak with Andy at our September meeting.

\*CARRIED FORWARD.

---

**Himalayan Balsam Clearance Lady Bay.** Trevor had circulated a request for volunteers to all FMP Members on receipt in May.

Eric reported the plant in Sheep Bank Lane (opposite Costock Road Pavilion). It posed a serious hazard to Kingston Brook. Neil undertook to inform the authorities. ACTION: NEIL

**Paths** New desire line paths had appeared in Gibson's Field. Some were to avoid willows, some to avoid mud, some were cutting corners. Steve had allowed them to remain. Neil would talk with him after the hay cut. ACTION: NEIL

**Green Flag:** (Alan) FMPC had been nominated for the Champion of Champions Award run by Defra. This is related to our establishment of wildflower meadow. We can send a member to the ceremony in London with travel paid.

**Monthly Amenities Committee Meetings:** (Alan) No need to attend the next meeting.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT.

Andy had communicated that there was nothing of significance to report.

#### ACTIVITIES

July 11<sup>th</sup> Docks, ragwort. Clear path SW Gibson's Field.

September 12<sup>th</sup> Tidy paths.

Summer walks (Mollie) Wildflower & Butterfly Walk, 27 June.

In spite of a good deal of advertising effort, just 10 people attended, the only non-regulars being two of Kevin Gibbons' friends.

The afternoon was sunny and warm, and although some of the meadow plants were not quite at their peak (poor weather earlier in the year, and a slightly earlier date for the walk), there were plenty of species to be seen under Ann Weekley's expert guidance.

We had two butterfly experts on hand, Kevin Gibbons and Brian Johnson, and they identified a variety of species. Brian sent us the following note:

*The weather kept fine and eight different species were recorded during the 90 minute walk. The number in parenthesis () is the total of butterflies recorded per species.*

*Meadow Brown (46), Large Skipper (7), Ringlet (5), Small Tortoiseshell (4), Common Blue (3), Speckled Wood (3), Red Admiral (2) and Small Skipper (1).*

In view of the poor response, the committee may wish to re-consider the future of our walks programme.

**Carnival** 20<sup>th</sup> June (Mollie) Thanks to Ann and Kevin who both spent a couple of hours on the stall. We also had assistance from four other Friends who helped for ½ or 1 hour each.

We distributed about 40 flyers advertising the Wildflower Walk, several arboretum and walks leaflets, and a few people took application forms. One new member signed up and paid on the day.

We sold all the plants we had been given, and about ten notelet packs. The object was not primarily to raise funds, but to get publicity. We did, however, want to recoup the £20 that the stall cost, and in fact made an additional profit of £15.85 (including the £3 membership fee).

Date of next meeting Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

\*CARRIED FORWARD (Hay Rattle seed). Neil, Andy.

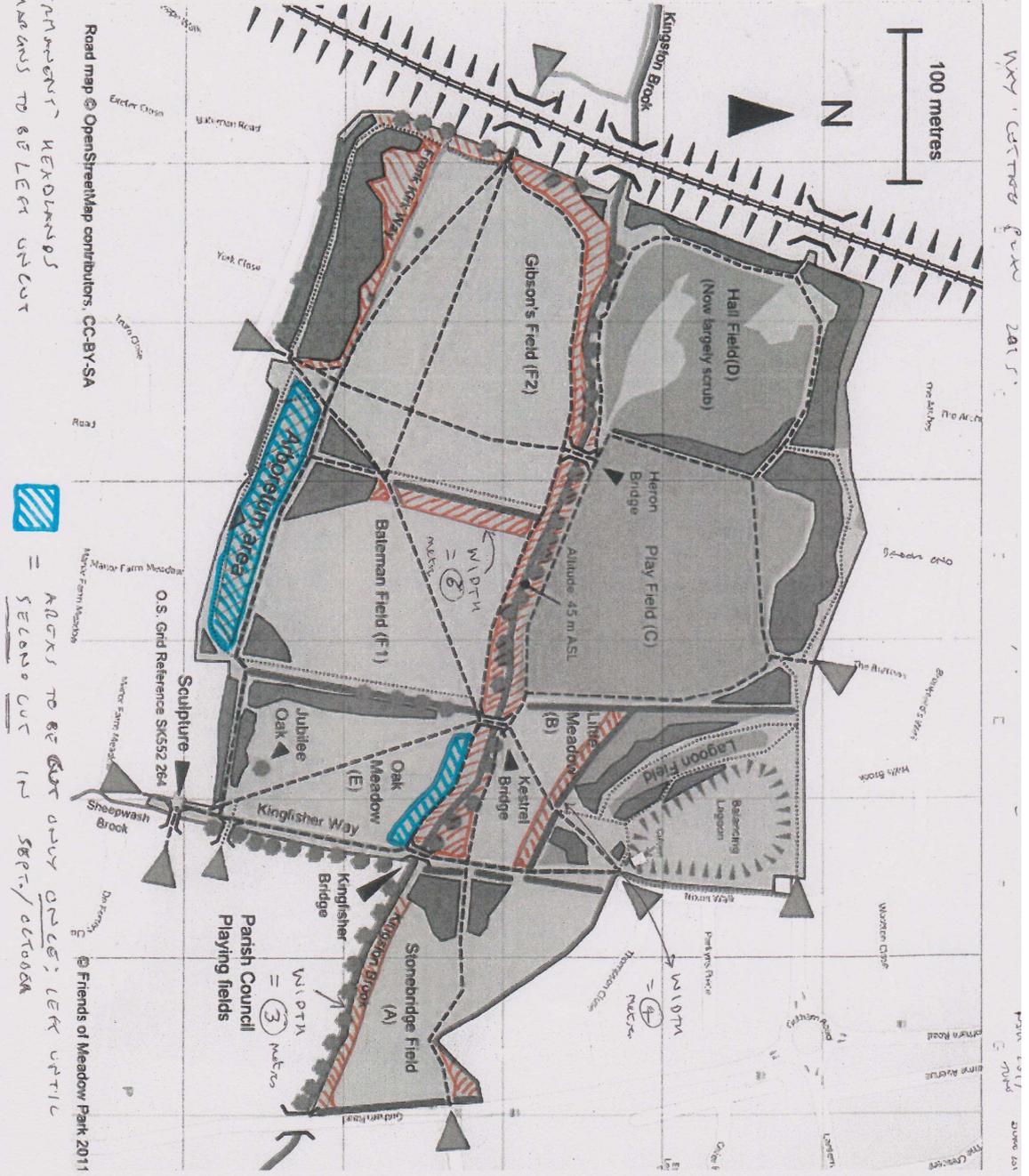
---

MEADOW PARK  
EAST LEAKE

WY. CUTTING PLAN 2015

**KEY**

- Park Land
- Mown area
- Original Plantings
- Areas of Scrub
- Original Hedgerow
- Large or notable trees.
- Brook / Stream
- Bridge
- Maintained Footpath
- Other Footpath
- Public Footpath
- Access point
- = NEW 'REPAIRMENTS' HEDGEROWS
- = RAYS TO BE CUT OUT ONLY UNLESS LEFT UNTIL



MEADOW PARK, EAST LEAKE.

HAY CUTTING PLAN 2015