

Friends of Meadow Park Committee.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 19 January 2011.

Present: Alan Barlow, Trevor Jones, Richard Jenks, Conrad Oatey, Andrew Sandford, Neil Hunter, John Adcock, Andy Denker, Peter Bloxham, Marie Males, Debbie Slade (latter part).

Apologies: Kevin Shaw, Paul Phillips, Mollie Jacques.

Minutes of the Meeting of 20th October 2010 having previously been circulated were approved.

Minutes of the AGM of 24th November 2010 had been previously circulated. They were approved with the following correction: page 3, line 14 – hemlock had been cut, not uprooted.

MATTERS ARISING

20th October 2010.

A bonfire of cuttings will be allowed. The Parish Clerk and the fire service must be notified in advance.

A list of jobs which could perhaps be carried out by Steve (Parish Council groundsman) in the winter to be drawn up for the July meeting. ACTION COMMITTEE

AGM:

A special kettle had been purchased by Conrad for use in Meadow Park.

Information on birds to be posted on EL website, not Notice Board. ACTION ALL MEMBERS

Diary of birds and flowers likewise. ACTION ALL MEMBERS

Bird/flower/tree identification walk. Include arboretum. Ask Ann/Ian Weekley, Dennis Fox and Max Watson if they will undertake it. Suggest one walk in May and another in July before hay is cut. ACTION TREVOR

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Trevor said that he had observed or been on various committees over 50 years. All differed with regard to procedure. A feature of FOMP was no provision of information to new committee members. This could result in new members wasting effort and even accidentally treading on peoples' toes. A "who's-who" would help. He had been through files since 2000. The constitution was fairly conventional. The best technical document would be an up-to-date management plan. It would indicate long term objectives and where we were at. Mollie's Newsletter was excellent at capturing the spirit of the enterprise and at transmitting enthusiasm.

The wetland scrape had been proposed in 2000 and mentioned at frequent intervals over the subsequent 10 years. When matters came to a head at the September 2010 meeting, it was decided not to proceed.

It was time to circulate members requesting renewal of subscriptions. Trevor suggested that members could also be asked to indicate any experience (forestry, drainage, agronomy, arthropodology, etc) that they were willing to be approached on. Agreed. ACTION TREVOR

TREASURER'S REPORT

"Nothing since the AGM". Alan asked if the substantial balance could be invested or spent. Suggestions included more seats. Marie had brought details of Rushcliffe Ladybird Trail. Pencils and maps cost 50 p. Where could they be sold? Richard suggested a vending machine. Peter, the Parish Office. Trevor, schools. Could we make a willow sculpture? Yes, if we had time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Notts Wildlife Trust Training Document was discussed. Alan indicated interest in meadow management and Trevor in interpreting management plans. Trevor asked if the courses could be offered to general members; this was declined. Peter wondered if savings could be made by one instructor travelling to e.g. six participants in East Leake. Trevor to complete and dispatch their questionnaire. ACTION TREVOR
BTVC – big green society. It was decided not to become involved at present.

Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy. Little new. There was the concept of groups cooperating for major tasks. We had none at present.

Kingston Brook Internal Drainage Board had approached Alan regarding a site meeting, but had not replied to his request for details. Marie said that she would attend their meeting on February 4 and would ask why they had approached us. It might be something to do with willow trees.

Future of Lagoon Field. Alan was awaiting a reply from the Parish Clerk on responsibilities. Trevor said that if saplings were not fayed we would have woodland. Lagoon walls must be protected from roots. Richard said he would discuss faying in the near future.

OTHER REPORTS

Arboretum.

John reported major achievement:-

25 trees had been planted by the contractor.

One tree space was being reserved for schools to plant.

Conrad should be praised for obtaining money and his planting know-how.

The planned groups were planted approximately in lines. Distances between trees could not all be the same as in the original plan. Grass cutting should be practicable.

John was obtaining name tags. A plan and list of trees was supplied to Members.

He hoped to claim that all native species were represented in Meadow Park: only a Downy Birch was needed.

Trees had been supplied bare rooted.

Grass cutting probably twice a year. More frequent cutting might kill flowers.

Trees should have flexible ties -

ACTION JOHN

Tree watering. Deb might approach a local house to see if we could use their tap. The Parish office as a water meter and a tap. It supplies water to the fairground. Pump water from brook? Alan will contact KBID Board about it.

ACTION ALAN

Trim Track. (Alan) An application for £50,000 had been made to Groundwork UK. A reply was not expected under 6 to 8 weeks and possibly not before the end of this financial year. There had been strong support from the Health Centre, Men's Club and Bowls Club. 80 signatures had been collected at a stall mounted in the village, but the response from local education centres had been disappointing.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2011.

Litter bins? Who will empty them? Deb suggested that they did not work. Peter suggested litter picking every Saturday session. Trevor said this was useful if excess labour turned up.

Alan listed from the Draft Management Plan: (1) Wildflowers. (2) Tall grass. This was present at headlands for 3 m already. It should be cut every four years. (3) Picnic benches – Alex Price had been asked to supply prices. (4) Pollard willows. (5) Scallop – discuss with Kingston Brook authorities. (6) Control weeds.

Ragwort – Richard not very worried. Trevor said that correspondence recorded elimination of ragwort in Charnwood by 100% picking on two consecutive years. There was also ragwort in the lagoon. Conrad said

that it was essential for survival of the Cinnabar Moth (also used for biological control). Hemlock – deadly poisonous. Cattle did not appear to eat live plants. Deaths associated with eating roots after streams dredged. (Poisonous to humans - executed Socrates!). Some trimming of laid hedges to increase bushiness and to delay next lay? Not agreed to.

Final Management Plan. Paul had asked Trevor in August 2010 to draft a final plan. Trevor had circulated his 13 page draft document to Members on 6th September 2010, but there had been little response. Peter and Andy volunteered to join Trevor in drawing up a synopsis working document for FOMP.

ACTION: TREVOR

ACTIVITIES

November 2010. Saturday + 2 weekdays on hedge laying.

December 2010. Hazel coppicing.

January 2011. Path work, litter, bird boxes (Ann and Ian Weekley and Eric Bryson)

12 February. 5 metre shrub removal Brook, plus rubbishing, plus coppice/plant willows.

In charge John and Andrew

12 March. Removing turf and sowing wild flowers in Arboretum.

In charge John.

9 April. Litter gathering.

In charge Peter.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Acute Oak Decline. Confirmed in the area(Rempstone) but not present in Meadow Park (Neil).

Oaks donated by Micropropagation to be planted.

ACTION: CONRAD

Andrew thought that a large willow dipping into Sheepwash Brook should be cut. Alan would approach the Parish Council.

ACTION: ALAN

The pile of cut dogwood in Hall Field was growing. Conrad suggested it might be burned in the summer.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

9th March 2011