

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING  
13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 7.30-9.15 P.M.

Apologies for absence: Paul, Ian, Brenda, Eric.

Present: Ann, Alan, Neil, John, Andrew, Andy, Kevin, Mel, Philip, Trevor (minutes).

Minutes of the FMPC Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were ratified.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

General Purpose of Intent (Ann). Members stated their fields of interest.

Ann reported that there had been a request from Paul Philips at RBC, which ELPC also support, that they receive fewer e-mails. In order to reduce the number it is suggested that all e-mails to them are sent through one person (normally her) and involve only minutes, agendas and decisions (where applicable). Neil said that there was no conflict with ELPC. In discussion, Trevor said that there was clear information in the Constitution and in the Management Plan on the FMPC/ELPC relationship. The FMP constitution appeared to have been drawn up by RBC. The wording was in legalese and FMP was a quasi - official body. RBC/ELPC/ FMPC Relationship had been on the agenda twice last year, but neither Paul nor Marie had attended to clarify the position. FMPC had a duty to abide by the constitution. This did not mean slavish adherence which would impede development, but ignoring the constitution could lead to chaos.

Liaison with EL Academy (Trevor) Sarah Benskin, Head of Science, had contacted him in November, in response to his letter. She was interested in setting up ecology projects for post -16 year olds in MP this year. Presumably these are pupils studying "A" level Biology. It was important that the FMPC did well, so that a long term relationship would be built up. Trevor felt that important communications should be letters on headed paper, and proposed formation of a sub-committee. Ian has ready to be involved. Ann ruled that Mel and herself would make contact with M/s Benskin within a week.

ACTION: ANN, MEL

Review of the Management Plan (Trevor). It was agreed that the draft Management Plan be circulated to all Members on email for comment.

ELPC had ignored the Plan on occasion, but FMP had also done so. For example, considerable effort had gone into compiling the species list in 2011, but it had not been adhered to. Plan rules are not binding, but there should be general agreement before they are overruled. It was particularly important that rules relating to grass cutting be defined. There had been dispute for many years and this was an opportunity to define what FMPC would like.

Suggested amendments to current rules and suggested new rules should be submitted as Word documents (.doc) to Trevor by February 24th.

ACTION: ALL MEMBERS

Grass cutting. (Neil) Richard Jenks had been beaten by the weather. Any topping should be completed before March. It was very important that Yellow Rattle was not disturbed in March and until hay making. He and Kevin would compile suggestions for the Grass Cutting Contract by February 24th, in time for our March Meeting.

ACTION: NEIL, KEVIN

Rushcliffe Nature conservation Forum. (Alan) Their Meeting was held EL Village Hall Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015. There was a very interesting programme. Alan, Ann and Kevin made presentations. Trevor also attended. Neil conducted a tour of MP in the afternoon.

Plan for next 12 months (Neil) No changes

Liaison with junior schools (Ann, Kevin) Nothing to report.

Trees encroaching on Manor Farm Meadow. (Ann) These overhung gardens and formed a frost pocket. Neil asked if all householders were in agreement on trimming. He thought that some had cut trees themselves. Ann would discuss with her neighbours. ACTION: ANN

Arboretum (Andy) The sessile oak had been planted. The hybrid had been moved to the West. Kevin asked if it would be worth planting a Dutch Elm Disease resistant elm. Not decided. Andy reported £500 had been donated for a commemorative bench in the arboretum. D6, 23 was the chosen site, with the seat facing NW. Steel, vandal proof. John asked if he could see details. FMPC would install. ACTION: ANDY

Willow bed extension. (John ) He proposed planting five species – Flanders Red, Wissenders, Black Maul, Green Dicks, Dicky Meadow - in a strip at the S and E boundaries of the current bed. They were traditional basket making willows. Cost about £50. It would be necessary to hire a turf cutter and a rotavater for a weekend in early March. It would not be an Activity ACTION: JOHN.

Annual willow cut (John) From the end of February. A Monday one-off event. ACTION: JOHN

Willow structure (John) He planned an 8ft basket as a memorial to the EL basket industry. There were 3 - 4 year old willows in Lagoon Field, which could make a sturdier structure than previously. Alan pointed out that at least 60 man hours had been invested in building the two previous structures, to no avail, because they were almost destroyed by vandals. John proposed steel post and grid security. Trevor pointed out that even this would not protect against fire. He proposed that the living remnants of the 2015 structure be left to develop. It might prove possible to train them. He was surprised at how quickly rot had set in to the dead willow used in construction of the 2015 erection, and queried if a more open skeleton structure would suffice if construction were ever repeated. ACTION: CARRY FORWARD\*.

Gibson's Field Stone (Trevor) Appendix 1. Kevin suggested that the Historical society might have details of an old sewage system. Trevor would ask David Bridge to identify the type of stone.

Facebook site. (Ian and Brenda not present) ACTION: CARRY FORWARD\*

Hay rattle seed. (Neil ) The seed had been sown.

Dens (Neil) No developments.

Publicity (Ann) Brenda had supplied her with a very comprehensive list of her actions and plans.

Archaeological Day (Alan) He had heard nothing since last October and would pursue the matter. ACTION: ALAN

Green Flag (Alan) It was agreed not to apply this year. (Later reconsidered).ACTION: ALAN

Green Flag and Postcode Community Trust's Grant Scheme (Ann) Agreed not to apply.

Monthly Amenities Committee Meetings: Ann and Mel would attend. They would find out by what date ELPC would like FMPC submission on the grass cutting contract. ACTION: ANN, MEL

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT: (TREVOR)

Mollie was still included in FMPC correspondence, as part of her handing over commitment. The G5 form was circulated and signed.

#### TREASURERS REPORT – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 11/1/16

The accounts for the year 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 have been ratified by Lesley Bancroft.

My thanks to Lesley Bancroft for again finding time to audit the accounts and also again for the membership of FMP, and the wider village community for being generous with their subscriptions and donations.

The balance in the account at the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2015 was £1619.23

This is split between: General Funds £934.23  
and Arboretum Sponsorship £685

As outlined at the AGM there were three items of expenditure in the process of payment at the start of the 2015 – 2016 year. These have now been paid, namely: £131 for the replacement trees in the Arboretum, £230 for the purchase of hay rattle seeds and £147.91 for the purchase of bird/bat boxes

Reminders for membership subscriptions went out in December again this time to try and get the January anniversary date fixed.

#### SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT

##### CREDIT

Initial Balance in Bank	£1619.23
Membership Subscriptions [50 ren/new to date]	£303
Arboretum Sponsorship	£0.00
Membership Donation	£522
[This includes a wonderful individual donation of £500]	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2444.23</b>

DEBIT

Frosts Plant Centre – 2 off trees	£131
Neil Hunter - Hay Rattle Seeds	£230
RSPB – 6 off Bird and 3 off Bat boxes	£147.91
Various other items	£62.92
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£571.83</b>

Balance as at 11/1/16: Total	£1872.40
General Funds	£1318.40
Arboretum Sponsorship	£554

Funding applications (Alan) None current. New loppers and saws were needed. Paul could not release funds until he received an application from FMPC stating that they had none. This could lead to delays. Applications close at the end of March

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alan had received a letter of thanks from Mollie for her retirement book token.  
Ann recited a poem relating to dog fouling from her sister in Scotland. It was proposed that it be displayed in Meadow Park.  
John and Andy complained of dogs jumping up at them.

ACTIVITIES

September 12<sup>th</sup> Tidy paths. Lop American Dogwood.

October 3<sup>rd</sup> Tidy up for walk.

November 14<sup>th</sup> Scrub clearance. Nest boxes.

December 12<sup>th</sup> Dogwood clearance

January 9<sup>th</sup> 20 attended. Docks. Clearance in Lagoon field. Checked all trees in arboretum. Planted 6 buckthorn. Litter picking. Raised Gibson's stone. There was a shortage of tools. Suggest bring own in futures. Crowd management problem. Trevor suggested that there was always some clearance to be done.

Andy said that some new tree labels were needed.

ACTION: ANDREW

February 13<sup>th</sup> Scrub clearance.

March 12<sup>th</sup> Tidy Electric Avenue.

Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

## APPENDIX 1.

### Raising the stone in Gibson's Field 9th January 2016

Present: John Roulstone, Max Hand, Trevor Jones.

The stone is situated at B7, 34 on the FMP 2011 Meadow Park map. (A little West of the sweet chestnut tree and immediately North of the nearby desire line path).

It is approximately rectangular, maximum length 1m (3ft 3ins), maximum width 75 cm (2ft 5ins).

The area under the stone was level. The exposed surface consisted of soil and roots, surrounded by large red bricks under the edge of the stone. There were a few large full-thickness fragments of relatively modern red clay drain pipe. Very superficial clearing revealed a hollow square of bricks, estimated 46cm (1ft 6ins) wide, having the appearance of the top edge of a shaft, against the inside of the South edge of the peripheral bricks. It was packed with soil and brick fragments. The brick infrastructure has presumably prevented the stone from sinking into soil over the years.

We were careful not disturb the site and replaced the stone gently. Mr Tim Kirk, whose family farmed the field until 1996, informed me in 2011 that he understood that the stone marked the inspection site of an old sewer. Could East Leake sewage have once flowed directly into Kingston Brook? I have asked the Parish Clerk if she has any relevant information.

Trevor