

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

4th May 2016 7.30-9.00 P.M.

Apologies for absence: Andrew

Present: Ann, Marie, Neil, Andy, Kevin, Mel, Alan, Brenda, Eric, John, Trevor (minutes).

Minutes of the FMPC Meeting of 2nd March 2016 were ratified following an agreed amendment

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Amenities Committee: Mel reported that it was decided that the arboretum be mowed annually. A tender document relating to the grass cutting contract would be distributed. Neil asked for details of distribution, but these were not known.

A sub-committee - Marie Males, Conrad Oatey, Kevin Shaw, Paul Phillips and herself - had been set up to study the Management Plan. It was expected to report on 18th May.

Grass cutting contract. FMPC's suggested Cutting Regime had been submitted to ELPC on 20th March.

Trevor asked if allowing grass seed to fall to earth in late summer rather than harvesting seeds with hay in July, might increase grass population. Kevin said that this was not the case. Trevor pointed out that late July cutting was followed by growth of flowers, so that there were two flower crops per year. Kevin stated that the new system, producing one crop, would not result in a reduction in annual insect food. Trevor proposed that a careful record be kept of flower species, period in flower and approximate populations. ACTION: ANN

Liaison with East Leake Academy. Ann had met with the Biodiversity teacher. The main work was done on the School Field and at Mallam Cove. Meadow Park is likely to replace some studies which currently use the school field..

Liaison with junior schools Ann reported that Lantern Lane used MP and their Forest School was active. Andy and she had supplied logs. Both Lantern Lane and Brookside had expressed interest in a flower walk. ACTION: ANN

Arboretum. Andy said that the two replacement trees appeared OK. A full inspection of the site would take place on Saturday May 14th. ACTION: ANDY
Kevin had seeded some of Bee World. It was now late for further seeds, which could be sown in the autumn. He offered 2 for 1 tickets to the Wildflower event at Kew Gardens.

Willow bed extension. John was not happy that his plan for rotivation of the proposed extension, agreed at our 15th January 2016 Meeting, had been postponed. FMPC did not base decisions on majority vote, as they should per constitution. Neil complained that he had not been informed. Trevor said that there appeared to have been considerable email correspondence which had not been circulated to the full Committee. Mel stated that Conrad Oatey (ELPC), who was experienced in this field, had ruled that cultivation of the site was unnecessary. John maintained that it is. ACTION: JOHN PREPARE PLAN FOR 2017

Committee correspondence should normally include all Members. ACTION: ALL MEMBERS

Breeding bird survey Ann reported a survey commencing 7 a.m. April 23rd. 31 species had been recorded. Martens, swallows, chiff-chaff etc.

Alan had produced a poster to warn against allowing dogs to disturb nesting birds in Hall Field. Eric said that Rushcliffe exhibited maps showing areas from which dogs were banned, but they had dog wardens.

Facebook site. Trevor wondered if Alan's poster could be displayed. Kevin suggested butterflies. ACTION: MEL

Publicity .Ann thanked Brenda for her efforts. Brenda thanked Molly. Brenda proposed a "what to look for this month" submission for E L times, and requested submissions. Trevor suggested that there were several old ones in existence, which could be updated. Ann proposed a hand out for dog-walkers, suggesting that they join FMP, "at less than a penny a day". Kevin suggested that involvement in Sat AM activities should not be mentioned, because it might deter some people. Alan suggested leaflets for new - comers to the village. Trevor had succeeded in persuading the vendors of new houses on an estate to provide a leaflet on Neighbourhood Watch. Perhaps this could be done with FMP leaflets.

ACTION: BRENDA (AND OTHERS)

Archaeological Day Alan had won this Notts Wildlife Group prize in October 2015, but the date had not been fixed , despite active chasing up. Trevor suggested that they thought in terms of centuries. Mel suggested that the History Society be involved. ACTION: MEL

Officer of the Day Saturday Activities. Alan said that the appointment had lapsed in recent years. Trevor thought it was a full time responsibility if there were major turnouts. Alan agreed that insurance cover specified use of safety apparel. Safety equipment e.g. goggles should certainly be offered. The Officer should wear a safety hat. New equipment should appear soon. It had to be photographed in use: photos to Paul Phillips. Laminated maps of MP were needed for new recruits.

Alan would supply safety rules from his Green Flag application.

ACTION: ALAN, ANN

Grizzled skipper training day. Kevin reported that it was fully booked.

Carnival stall (Ann) Agreed not to take part. Might be involved in Village Show.

Monthly Amenities Committee Meetings: Ann and Mel would attend. ACTION: ANN, MEL

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (TREVOR)

FMPC draft of the Management Plan (18 pages including Appendices) had been supplied to ELPC/RBC before their dateline of March 20th. It would be discussed when ELPC's response had been received.

TREASURERS REPORT (ANDY)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 2/5/16

The balance in the account at the 1st of November 2015 was £1619.23

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

Further reminders for membership subscriptions went out last month again to finalise any renewals for 2016

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT

CREDIT

Initial Balance in Bank	£1619.23
Membership Subscriptions [75 ren/new to date]	£506
Arboretum Sponsorship	£0.00
Other items	£8.00
Membership Donation	£533
[This includes a wonderful individual donation of £500]	
TOTAL	<u>£2666.23</u>

DEBIT

As at 2/3/16	<u>TOTAL £617.03</u>
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Balance as at 2/5/16 : Total	£2049.20
General Funds	£1495.20
Arboretum Sponsorship	£554

There will be several debits within the next few weeks, these will be for: 1]The new seat for the Arboretum for £644 [£536 for the seat and £108 for delivery] will be paid to ELPC.

2] The purchase of several items of new safety equipment - £198.80

3] The purchase of new Saws and Loppers – estimated at £139.45 [we have been successful in our application for a Biodiversity Support Grant from RBC to assist in this purchase]

4] The purchase of new spades, forks and rakes – estimated at £180

Funding applications (Alan). None ongoing. We have to plan for next year's RBC allocation. Marie stated that she had £180 in her gift, which could be made available. Neil said that money would be needed to purchase butterfly friendly hedging plants for Bateman Road and the head of the Lagoon.

Alan reported that guide rails at the entrance and exit of Heron Bridge had been neatly sawn off. 2-3 trees in the copse at the junction of Oak Meadow and Bateman Field had been ringed, which will kill them. Kevin suggested fitting cameras.

ACTIVITIES

May 14th Docks. Clear paths. Litter. Andy's team to inspect and repair arboretum. Kevin and Andy in charge.

June 11th Tidy brook. Possibly bracken.

July 9th

Brenda proposed eradication of American Dogwood. Chemical treatment is out. Eric proposed carrying on with annual cutting. Trevor said that eradication would free labour for more efficient use in perpetuity. He had cut bamboo in autumn and covered very short stumps with geotextile membrane. This was then covered with soil to block out light. Presumably grass could be sown on this soil. He was not positive that eradication had been achieved. Neil reported that bamboo had invaded the NE boundary of Meadow Park, presumably from an adjacent garden.

Summer walks: Not this year. Trevor said that Ian had suggested an autumn bird walk.

ANY OTHR BUSINESS

It had been reported that the triangular area in the north-west corner of Play Field had recently been mown several times. However, this had been set aside as a 'long-grass habitat' for small-mammals, insects and other creatures, being especially useful for winter hibernation. It was only supposed to be cut once every 3 - 5 years as part of the rotational management of designated 'field margin' zones within the Park. This established procedure is included in the FMPC Grass Cutting Plan submitted to ELPC in March.

Marie would discuss it with the parish Clerk.

ACTION: MARIE

Trevor suggested that FMPC offer an essay prize to EL schools. E.g. "My favourite spot in Meadow Park and why I like it"; "Dangers in Meadow Park"; "The value of Meadow Park to the community", to ascending grades. Brenda suggested photos. Trevor thought essays required contemplation on the part of children, which would be of greater long term benefit to them.

Ann would mention the subject to head teachers.

ACTION: ANN

Date of next Meetings: Wednesday 6th July 2016 Wednesday 7th September 2016
AGM Wednesday 16th November. Wednesday 4th January 2017

Trevor 10 May 2016

