

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

6th March 2019

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Andrew, Trevor, John.

Present: Andy, Eric, Ann, Kevin, Kev, Brenda, Alan, Sue, Neil, Ian, Kev.

2) MINUTES OF THE FMPC MEETING OF JAN 2019 WERE RATIFIED.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Arboretum: (Andy) - Replacement trees have now been planted in the Arboretum and 'Frank Kirk' Way – Alder, Beech and Wild Cherry have been planted in the Arboretum with a Silver Birch being planted on 'Frank Kirk' Way. Ann and Alan have been watering. The replacement Juniper for the Arboretum will be planted later in the year when increased in size.

A full inspection will be carried out in March.

Forest School update: (Ann / Andy) – The shrubs planted in the area will be inspected in March to see if any replacements are required. The teacher will be liaised with in March to see if the fitting of wooden poles will be preferable to using the trees to hang the tarpaulins to keep the children under cover during heavy rain. Ann and Eric have done 2 bird watching sessions, and despite inclement weather for one of these, the children have been very enthusiastic.

**NEXT STEPS – Ann to speak to Forest School to see if they are interested to plant some wild flowers.
Andy to speak to the teacher about the setting up of the tarpaulins.**

Tree planting and tree requests: (Ann) – The Beech and Wild Cherry have been planted. It is clear that sponsoring a tree is the best way to go for us, but we perhaps need to be crystal clear that people are "sponsoring" a tree, not buying it. Brenda clarified this by showing everyone the certificate that people get when they adopt / sponsor a tree. We do also need to ensure therefore that any trees that die get replaced.

Bird box update : (Eric) – There were 12 existing boxes still ok, but this year 16 of the bird boxes have been replaced due to various reasons (damaged, missing etc). They have been placed at varying heights. Ann has a map of where they are all located, and in future we will look to put guards around the nest box holes. There were also 2 new bat boxes put up. It is unknown whether the current bat boxes are being used. We considered doing a bat/bat box survey sometime in the future (Ian has a bat detector)

NEXT STEPS – Andy to get an extra couple of dozen guards to put on the bird boxes going forwards.

Publicity / Competitions / Website / Facebook update: (Brenda) – Brenda was very pleased with the banner design the prices are very reasonable (6x2 foot £24, and 3x1foot £12). We decided to opt for 1 large banner and 2 small ones. Ian suggested that we add a Facebook reference on the banner.

NEXT STEPS – Brenda to order the banners.

Meet Your Village : (Kevin) – Stand to be manned by Kev and Ian, with Mel and Alan to help if they are available.

NEXT STEPS – Brenda to pass display material, membership forms and new banners to Kev.

NEXT STEPS – Kevin to ensure we have a table and display boards for the event.

TVIDB activity review : (Ian) – Due to the fact that the plan of works was shared with us prior to commencement we checked that the work was done in an ecologically and environmentally sound manner. We now have a better relationship with the TVIDB and the work done was much better than last time. The next work may not be done for another 6 to 10 years now. Mel asked why the area by the railway tunnel had not been done, and Ian explained that the TVIDB can only do the most important sections and areas that can be readily accessed, and that they didn't unfortunately have the resource to do everything.

Damage to seat at Kingfisher Bridge: (Kevin) – The plaque was found to be badly corroded and is not replaceable. The Parish Council are currently engaged in replacing 5 more benches this year (the ones in good condition are being recycled and replaced). The bench at Kingfisher Bridge will be put in the general vicinity of the old one. It was asked if it could be placed away from the dog bin, but this is unlikely.

Willow bed extension and willow structure: (John) – The development of the willow bed seems unlikely to happen this year now. Mel thanked for the harvested willow, and plans to move the cut willow to the village hall garden and perhaps soak in the Meadow Park bins. Mel plans at some stage to show us how to do willow weaving. We also need to decide what to do with the willow structure, it was suggested that we keep this simple, let's keep it simple. Maybe an archway for kids to play in?

NEXT STEPS – Mel to suggest a few possible dates for the willow weaving.

NEXT STEPS – Kev to contact John to see what we can do with the willow structure.

Guides tree planting: (Kev) – The general consensus was not to plant more trees in the park at the moment, but Conrad has said that the Parish Council want to plant some trees in the Rest Garden, so the Parish Council is writing to the Guide leader to suggest that. However on further discussion we did think that some trees need to be added around the periphery of Bateman Road and the Lagoon

NEXT STEPS – Andy to look at where we might put some new trees.

Using our funds going forwards: (All) – The following ideas were suggested...

- Have a party to celebrate mid summers day.
- Plant primroses and other native plants.
- Build a limestone area for wildflowers.
- Purchase a shredder (seen to be expensive and no-where to store), but maybe we could hire Steetwise to chip wood for us when needed.
- Put up a wooden fence along Bateman road.
- Removal of bamboo. Could we employ a specialist contractor to remove this?...as it is a controlled waste we should speak to Paul Phillips about this.

NEXT STEPS – Andy to look at costs of fence for Bateman road, and to see if we could get any contributions towards financing this.

– Kev to speak to Paul Phillips with regards to control of the bamboo (contractors etc).

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Outdoor Gym: (Kevin) – Kevin informed us that an outdoor gym is to be put in at the bottom right of Playfield. This will be equipment placed in a small crescent shape, equipment will be similar to that in Highfields in Loughborough.

Meadow Park clothing: (Mel) – Sourcing of these (polo shirts and high vis jackets with Meadow Park logo) is being investigated. If these are good we could also potentially also offer these to members at a reasonable price.

NEXT STEPS – Mel to see if she can get some samples using the logo on the new banners and the old logo for us to review.

Charity walk: (Brenda) There is a young person in the village who needs to go abroad for cancer treatment, and we have been asked if the park can be used for a charity walk. Everyone was in favour of this.

Carnival: (Andy) – We decided to attend this as usual.

NEXT STEPS – Andy to ask Sue (Parish Office) for a table (special request)

– Kev to speak to Andrew to see if we could borrow his Gazebo again (as per last year).

Constitution: (Andy) – Andy has now got the final signature he needed,

NEXT STEPS – Andy to re-send out the final constitution.

4) FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK **TREASURERS REPORT – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 6/3/19**

Many thanks again to the membership of FMP, and the wider village community for being generous with their subscriptions and donations over the last two months.

The balance in the account at the 1st of November 2018 was £2085.82

This is split between: General Funds £1573.79

and Arboretum Sponsorship £512.03

As mentioned in the report of the 9th of January 2019, discussions with British Gypsum with regard to their very generous annual membership donation was ongoing. This is now complete and the two annual subscriptions have been transferred to the account.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT

CREDIT

Initial Balance in Bank	£2085.82
Membership Subscriptions [to date]	£397
Donations [Including collection boxes]	£492
Arboretum Sponsorship	£250
TOTAL	£3232.82

DEBIT

Purchase of replacement/new trees and associated sundries for the Arboretum	£211.23
ELPC – Photocopying	£8.20
Purchase of 10 nest boxes/wild flower seeds and plants	£305.40
TOTAL	£564.83

Balance as at 6/3/19 : Total **£2667.99**

General Funds £2117.19

Arboretum Sponsorship £550.80

Outstanding items that will require payment over the coming weeks are as follows:

1 Off grappling hook - £26.48

96 fibre pots for wild flower plants – £17.97

Vinyl banner art work Eliot Howard Taylor - £50

Production of banners - £48

Repair and repaint of lecterns – approx £200

Andy Denker [Treasurer] FMP 7/3/19 – Rev 1

5) FUNDING APPLICATIONS - : (Alan)

Plinths

Alan has been investigating costs for refurbishing the plinths. Malcolm Lane and sons have quoted £166 to replace the plastic over the green plinths.

NEXT STEPS – Alan to investigate costs for 2 new bits of polycarbonate, repainting of green plinths and touch up of black plinth.

Paths

We are now waiting to see if the funding for this will be approved by Notts County Council, this should then be match funded by the Parish Council. Hopefully we shall know by May whether this has been successful. We still plan to use any limestone debris from the old paths to build butterfly banks at the top right of Playfield and near the Bateman road entrance (details to be confirmed later).

6) ACTIVITIES UPDATE : (Andy)

The Activity days in January and February covered:

Scheduled:

Completion of the Hedge laying in copse No2 adj to the Arboretum along with dead hedging and coppicing. Major Litter pick of the brook bank in Oak Meadow and Sheepwash. Tidy up of the Forest School Area. Dig and prepare Bee World No 4, harvest willow, cut blackthorn and elder and generally tidy up field margin in Little Meadow.

Maps of the park to assist volunteers with identifying the areas of the park have been produced and are available from the depot.

Total hours worked to date - 118

Unscheduled Activity days in January/February covered:

Nest box survey – at least 13 off found to be missing. Prepare new holes for trees in Arboretum and 'Frank Kirk' Way. Liaise with Forest School. Plant wild flower plants and replacement/new trees in Arboretum/'Frank Kirk' Way. Fit 16 off nest boxes throughout the park. Arranging and liaising with NCC and ELPC and contractors re grant claim for repairing paths.

Total hours worked to date – 51.5 AED 6/3/19

7) NEXT ACTIVITY DAYS

Activity days are on the second Saturday of each month (weather permitting)

8) NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 1st May, 2019. 7.30pm, Parish Offices.