

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

4th January 2017

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Paul, Eric

Present: Ann, Kev, Andy, Alan, Mel, Neil, Brenda, Andrew, Trevor.

2) Minutes of the FMPC Meeting of 7th September 2016 were ratified.

3) SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Kevin stated that going forwards he would like to:

- Keep our meetings as informal and as friendly as possible.
- Keep us focussed on how we move the park forwards (without too much looking backwards) for the benefit of nature and people who use the park.
- Accept feedback on any issues with regards to his new role as Secretary.

4) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Arboretum: (Andy) - The Common Alder has been planted and along with the new Downy Birch and Sessile Oak will be regularly monitored over the coming months particularly with regard to watering. A small amount of maintenance is required, i.e. the removal of any tree ties that are no longer required along with wire netting on the Yew. A full survey will be carried out over the next few weeks.

NEXT STEPS – Andy to send Andrew a list of labels

Forest School Update: (Ann) - The log circle has now been fixed with wire and stakes. The area is being used on a weekly basis. The children have added “do not touch” notices. The School has asked for some instruction on the types of trees at some time in the future.

NEXT STEPS – Neil to leave logs down by the circle to be used as required.

Willow Bed Extension: (Andy) - The turf over the required area has been removed.

NEXT STEPS – Kev to ask John what he would like to do next (order the sets and timescales for planting etc).

Facebook: (Mel)

NEXT STEPS – Kev and Mel to enter more information and pictures onto our Facebook page if possible this year.

Publicity: (Brenda) – The Village Website is currently down pending a software change but will be updated once it is available and Brenda has been trained to use it. The grass below the Information Board at the entrance to the park is muddy and would benefit from paving slabs on the ground.

NEXT STEPS – Andy to look at rectifying this. Alan and Kev to help.

British Gypsum Update: (Ann) – British Gypsum are covered by the Parish Council for Insurance. We are waiting to hear from British Gypsum as to how they wish to proceed.

NEXT STEPS – Ann to follow up with an e-mail to British Gypsum.

Hedgerow / Shrubs Update: (Andy) – The dogwood and briars have been cut back along Bateman Road. 120 shrubs have been ordered with canes and rabbit guards.

NEXT STEPS – Vine on Bateman Road to be cleared (Andy / Kev/ Neil).

- **30 small Ash trees to be cut back to create more light for the Oaks (Neil).**
- **Can we use bio-degradable mats or old carpet when planting? (Andy).**
- **Lagoon field to be strimmed (Neil).**
- **Brash hedge to be established to the left of Bateman Road Entrance (Andy / Neil/Kev). Kev to speak to Lesley about red and white tape.**
- **All above actions to be done by end of March if possible.**

Severn Trent Sewerage Update: (Alan) – Concern was expressed as to effluent discharges into the brook, particularly as the size of the village grows.

NEXT STEPS – Alan to continue following up with Nigel Brailsford

Beavers: (Brenda) – The Beavers have kindly done some fund raising and have a cheque for us.

NEXT STEPS - Brenda to pass on contact details to Ann, then Ann to visit Beavers (6.15-7.15 pm Tuesdays) and thank Beavers and pick up cheque.

Guides: (Ann) – The Guides have kindly supplied us with 2 bat boxes.

NEXT STEPS - Kev and Andy to look for suitable trees to locate the boxes.

Essay Prize: (Trevor) – This was suggested as a possible way of further engaging with schools. This idea was further developed to maybe a mobile phone video.

NEXT STEPS – All agreed it was a good idea in principle and would be kept in mind during the coming year with regards to pursuing if an opportunity appeared.

Butterfly Walk: (Kev)

NEXT STEPS – Kev to decide on a date in July and communicate it to Gordon Dyne (Notts Wildlife Trust).

Tree Sponsorship: (Brenda)

NEXT STEPS – Brenda to e-mail to the membership about Tree Sponsorship

New Seat (Mel) – A collection is being made in Mel's shop in order to purchase a replacement seat.

5) TREASURERS REPORT (Andy)

FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK TREASURERS REPORT – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 2/1/17

The accounts for the year 1st November 2015 to the 31st October 2016 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 1st of November 2016 was £1275.68

This is split between: General Funds	£681.68
and Arboretum Sponsorship	£594

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: £206 for the replacement trees and posts etc in the Arboretum, £107.90 for the purchase of various tools and £219.98 for the purchase 120 mixed hedging plants for the Bateman Rd and Lagoon Field project. Also in December, in order to progress the Willow Bed extension turf has been removed at a cost of £200.

On the Credit side we have received a very generous donation from British Gypsum for £150 who will be assisting FMP on various projects throughout 2017. We have also, via Coun. Hetherington and the RBC Community Fund received a grant of £205 to cover the cost of the village leaflet

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT CREDIT

Initial Balance in Bank	£1275.68
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Membership Subscriptions		£30
Arboretum Sponsorship		£50
British Gypsum Donation		£150
RBC Community Fund grant		£205
	TOTAL	£1710.68
	DEBIT	
Chew valley Trees – 2 off trees etc		£206
Various tools		£107.90
120 Mixed Shrubs - Naturescape		£219.98
Removal of Turf		£200.00
Safety Equipment		£49.59
	TOTAL	£783.47
Balance as at 2/1/17 : Total		£927.21
	General Funds	£695.21
	Arboretum Sponsorship	£232

Andy Denker [Treasurer] 3/1/17

6) FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The CO-OP is running a scheme whereby local groups can apply for funding for projects. We could use this to fund the new willow bed extension.

NEXT STEPS – Alan to put an application together.

The idea of life membership was mentioned by Alan

NEXT STEPS – To be discussed by the Committee at the next meeting.

7) ACTIVITIES UPDATE (Andy)

ACTIVITY DAYS – NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

SCHEDULED – DECEMBER

The re - laying of the hedge in the Bateman Field copse adj to the Arboretum was started with one section about 90% complete along with the continuation of the clearance along the Bateman Rd border. 22HRS Total

UNSCHEDULED – NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

A variety of activities were carried out over the 2 months – planting and watering the new Alder, liasing with and fixing the logs for the Forest School, planting wild flowers, cutting down dogwood/briar along Bateman Rd and inspect the turf removal for the willow bed. 21HRS Total

8) NEXT ACTIVITY DAYS

January (14th) – Continue hedgelaying, coppice existing willows, clear Bateman Road border and decide what to do with the mound of soil (willow area turf stripping).

February (11th) – Hedge/Tree planting/Willow planting

March (11th) – Hall field scrub cutting / Bee world 4.

9) FUTURE MEETING

Wednesday March 8th.