

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING OF

WEDNESDAY 3RD MAY 2017 – PARISH OFFICE 7.30PM

1] APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: MEL, TREVOR, KEVIN, BRENDA, MARIE

PRESENT: ANN, ANDY, JOHN, IAN, ANDREW, NEIL, ALAN, ERIC

2] MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 8TH MARCH WERE RATIFIED

3] MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS

MEET YOUR VILLAGE 29TH APRIL [Ann]

This event was well attended and deemed a success, there was a lot of interest in the stall with 11 new members along with Arboretum sponsorship.

ARBORETUM [Andy]

There was a full survey carried out on the 3rd of April with all the trees found to be in good condition.

Various maintenance work was carried out, ie posts removed and replaced with the wire netting removed from the Juniper. An assortment of identification and QR labels were missing or damaged and have subsequently been produced by Andrew and refitted [29/4/17].

The suggestion of adding to the Arboretum was raised but declined with the sponsorship fund being used for ongoing maintenance.

FOREST SCHOOL [Ann]

The activities have now been transferred to a Tuesday afternoon.

After the removal of various trees along the Bateman Rd border the brush that was created was provided to the School group to use as Den building material [4/4/17].

The children are looking at producing posters to highlight the continuing dog mess situation.

Alan suggested the use of spray paint as used by other parishes in addition to the posters.

NEXT STEP: Andy to check with the local vets re any suitable sprays.

WILLOW BED EXTENSION [John]

John outlined his plan for moving forward with the project, with the ploughing to be done after the hay cut in August with the ELPC tractor or his own. This would prepare the ground for rotovating in the Autumn [Oct/Nov] with planting in March 2018.

NEXT STEP: John to manufacture plough.

PUBLICITY (update from Brenda received by e-mail after the meeting)

Brenda supplied the following for the "Meet Your Village" event - membership forms and Arboretum sponsorship forms plus some of the new notelets to sell.

The posters advertising the competition for new notelets have been put in the notice boards. East Leake Times write up has had information re all of the above and members have been emailed. Please would members of the committee take some photographs of flowers and views. As an interim we are selling some newly printed notelets featuring the old photographs until we have decided on the new ones and had them printed. We had 50 packs printed – 25 each of the views and flowers. These are being sold at £2 for 8 cards. This should tide us over. Mike at Thistlebank graphics is giving us a really good deal for the printing and the quality of the product is good.

I have still not had the training necessary to use the website. John Olivera and I have many holidays/breaks and finding a time when we are both in the village has proved to be a problem.

BRITISH GYPSUM [Ann]

They are still being notified of work parties, with only one attendance this year to date.

It was also stated that staff in the local COOP in the village could be available to assist for a short time during working hours.

NEXT STEP: perhaps look at arranging a session with BG over the summer ie ragwort removal.

HEDGEROW/SHRUBS [Andy/Neil]

Over the period between 11th to the 28th of March, all the planting in Bateman Rd and Lagoon Field was completed along with the fitting of rabbit guards and matting in Bateman.

Subsequent inspections over the last month have been carried out and due to the lack of rain all shrubs were watered on the 15th April.

Continued maintenance will be needed particularly in Bateman to keep nettle growth etc away from the shrubs.

NEXT STEP: Maintenance to be carried out on the next work party of 13th May.

SEVERN TRENT [Alan]

The meeting has been arranged for Monday 8th May at 11am at the East Leake pumping station with various questions to be put to the Severn Trent representatives.

NEXT STEP: Report from attendees.

BROWNIE WALKS 16/5 AND 3/7 [Kevin and Ann]

Ongoing.

BUTTERFLY WALK 8/7 [Kevin]

Ongoing.

MOWN TRIANGLE IN PLAY FIELD [Ann]

This is now clear as instructions to ELPC staff have now been given.

It has also been noted that unnecessary mowing has been carried out around the seat in the Arboretum.

NEXT STEP: Andy to contact Conrad.

AOB

a) Eric raised the point that a letter to his property from Severn Trent with regard to gaining access to work on the brook with heavy equipment with the proviso that any 'damage' would be reinstated. It was not known at this point in time that any work would be undertaken. Situation to be monitored.

b) Andrew raised the point that various items have been thrown in the brook adj to Kestrel Bridge.

NEXT STEP: Andy to investigate.

c) Ann mentioned that East Leake Carnival was on the horizon on the 24th June, the decision being that we should attend this year.

NEXT STEP: Andy – stall booked [£30] – various displays/interactive brook samples[Ian]/possible willow working [John].

d) Ann – Bat boxes require fitting.

NEXT STEP: Andy /Kevin to investigate Oak Meadow for suitable trees.

e] Neil – the Streetwise bin team had driven over meadow areas, rather than along the stone/cut paths as they are supposed to. This had been reported to Paul Philips who wrote back (on 3rd May) to say that Streetwise management would tell their staff not to drive over the fields.

f) Neil - Ash Dieback Disease, is now almost certainly present in the Park, it is important to record its first appearance as part of the monitoring of its spread both locally and nationally, and how it might affect tree management going forwards.

4] TREASURERS REPORT [Andy] – attached

A point was raised with regard to MEL'S collection for the new seat in Playfield. On speaking to Mel the collection in her shop is now for general funds and not specific for a new seat. General funds will now be allocated to make up the difference between the collection, £104 and the price of the seat.

NEXT STEP: Andy to investigate price of seat and report back, as before this will be ordered via ELPC.

Collection boxes have been ordered and received with one in use in Mel's shop, a further 4 are available for possible distribution in the village.

NEXT STEP: Andy to liaise with Mel to place other collection boxes in the village if possible.

FUNDING APPLICATIONS [Alan]

A grant from RBC for use on the willow bed extension matting and willow whips has had to be declined due to the putting back of the project. A new grant request will be made later in the year.

The CO OP also has funds available for local groups in the village – this to be investigated.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE [Neil/Andy]

SCHEDULED

MARCH - Planting in Bateman RD border, removal of turf mountain [willow bed ext] and litter picking.

APRIL - Litter pick in Sheepwash and Brook, various cutting back of blackthorn in Little Meadow.

Total scheduled work days hours to date: 134

UNSCHEDULED

MARCH/APRIL – Various including further planting Bateman and Lagoon Field, Arboretum tree inspection, watering new planting areas, clean up Forest School area etc.

Total unscheduled work day hours to date: 116.5

NEXT ACTIVITY DAYS – MAY 13TH AND JUNE 10TH [Neil/Andy]

Depending on the weather situation the following could be spread over the two working days:

Clear willow bed of bramble and grass regrowth.

Clear around Bateman Rd shrub planting.

Clear around Bateman Rd gate [to prepare for new gate].

Possible laying of chippings along Bateman Rd path.

Clear debris from under Kestrel Bridge.

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 5TH JULY

AED/AW 9/5/17