

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING 13TH MARCH 2013

Apologies for absence: Paul, Deb

Present: Alan, Neil, Kevin, Andy, Andrew, Mollie, Trevor (minutes).

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 16TH JANUARY 2013 had been circulated and were ratified.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Path renovation. Alan reported that Horizon had not replied to his request for a review of their estimate for further work. Funds from Lynne Sykes were a possibility. £8000 will have been spent on paths before the end of this year. Mollie said that the Bateman Road entrance was too steep for wheelchairs, but the Manor Farm Meadow entrance was convenient for many. An annual grant from ELPC towards PATH management costs was anticipated.

Play Field drainage. Conrad, Andy, Alan and Trevor had laid a four inch diameter pipe. This drained the sump satisfactorily, but four stakes had been stolen. Stones had been removed from each end of the pipeline and some of it exposed. This appeared to be malicious damage. Trevor said the PC Wesson had told him that all thefts should be reported to the police. It was felt that this was up to ELPC.

Kingston Brook survey. (Alan) No report had been received from Ian Morrissey, but one was expected.

Hay/silage. Alan reported that the planned meeting with Richard, the Parish Clerk and himself had not transpired. He would write to Council Member Richard with regard to (1) replacement of a notice board which he had damaged about two years ago (2) date of the second annual grass cut (3) 3m margins to be left when cutting grass (4) the possibility of leaving a field uncut, on annual rotation (5) hay bale count

ACTION ALAN

Bee World (Kevin) The selected area near the seat at the Bateman Road entrance had been prepared for sowing.

ACTION KEVIN

Liaison with schools. Kevin said that he would liaise with Ann Weekley. Both had contact with Brookside School. They would also contact Lantern Lane. Plant recognition sheets could be prepared for children. Mollie thought that Dennis Fox had prepared some. Kevin thought that childrens walks should be towards the end of the Summer Term. Mollie said she had a contact at Lantern Lane and would approach her.

ACTION KEVIN/MOLLIE

Wild flower subcommittee. (Neil) One corner of the wild flower strip sown at the top of Oak Meadow last autumn remained wet. The 1/4 to 1/3 of the purchased seed remaining would be sown later this Spring.

ACTION NEIL

East Leake Times articles. Mollie reported that in the past Ann, Denis, John and Max had routinely submitted "what to look out for" articles. All four had now discontinued, but she was able to adapt shortened versions of their submissions, though this could not continue indefinitely, and she proposed that in future she should omit the "what to look for" element and just report park news. This was accepted. She also looked after the Notice Boards. These took 8 A4 sheets; she changed 3 or 4 every month.

Litter picking. Trevor said that it was occasionally necessary to mention that FMP do not carry responsibility for litter control in MP. He wondered if various group efforts could be coordinated by ELPC. Alan said that the railway arch in NW Hall Field was very untidy. Kevin would take the matter up with a GCR colleague.

ACTION KEVIN

Arboretum leaflet. Mollie introduced a draft Arboretum leaflet which was provisionally approved. Among other possible sources of funding, she mentioned that ELPC had a publications fund which might meet printing costs. Neil wondered if a QR system would attract young people. Each tree would have a QR code, which could be read by a SMART phone. The observer would be linked to information on the specific tree. Andrew volunteered to make QR code labels. FMP would first need either pages on its own website with relevant text and pictures or pages on a third party website that would remain there for the duration. Alan undertook to approach a colleague, Keith Adams, who prepared websites free of charge for voluntary groups.

Tree sponsorship was discussed yet again; it was agreed to proceed with this once the post-flood health of the trees was known.

ACTION ALAN, MOLLIE

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Trevor)

RBC/ELPC AGREEMENT on Meadow Park. Trevor had requested this on behalf of the Committee and ELPC would decide at their next meeting if it could be made available.

Subscriptions Some members had not agreed to their contact details being included in a Members List for general circulation. This request would be deleted from future renewal slips and no Members List circulated.

Following a proposal by Andy it was generally agreed that the Membership List be closed on March 31st. Members renewing or joining between January 1st and July 31st would pay the standard fee (at least) to cover their membership until up until the end of the current year. For those joining or rejoining after 31st July the fee would cover up until the end of the following year. Trevor did not agree with the proposal that late payers should be rewarded with free membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT. (Andy)

£2250.40 in the kitty. £109 owed for drain construction. £515 had been received from renewing/new members this year. 29 were still to renew (or resign).

CORRESPONDENCE (Trevor)

East Leake Scouts Day Monday May 6th 1.30-4 p.m. There was an invitation to run a stall (£10) and /or "display skills in an arena". Agreed to circulate committee members with the request.

ACTION TREVOR

Nest box report 2012. Agreed to ask Eric and Ian for details by next September of nest box requirements. Andrew volunteered to make new nest boxes and others to repair existing ones. Trevor mentioned that boxes should be screwed, not nailed, to trees for ease of removal. There had been a problem with rusty hinges.

ACTION TREVOR

Alan reported that a Mr Roulstone had approached him regarding willows and basket making. He was from a family associated with the local industry prior to the invention of plastics.

ACTION ALAN

ACTIVITIES

Neil remarked on the problem of disturbing birds during the nesting season. It might be worth hiring a small digger to remove American Dogwood roots.

January 2013 Hedge laying. Preparing branches for shredding.

February Digging a slit trench (SW corner of Play Field) in readiness for laying a drainage pipe. Survey of any remedial work needed in Electric Avenue. Nest boxes survey. Litter picking.

March Work on Bee World, wild flower site, shrub border, hibernacula, stream clean and litter.

April Spring clean. Remove dock roots.

May Weeding.

June Tidy paths.

October Construct nest boxes

Persons in charge were not named.

Flower, bird, tree, butterfly walks.

Birds: Max had withdrawn for health reasons. Trevor to approach Eric and Ian. Alan would approach Bob Mudge , Loughborough RSPB, on Friday 15th. ACTION TREVOR/ALAN

Trees: Dennis June 1st.

Flowers and Butterflies: Ann and Kevin 6th July 2p.m.

Mollie in charge of publicity

ACTION MOLLIE

DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday 15TH May.