

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
9th September 2015 7.30-9.15 P.M. (3 pages)

Apologies for absence: Paul, Mollie.

Present: Alan, Neil, Ann, John, Eric, Andrew, Andy, Ian, Trevor (minutes).

Minutes of the FMPC Meeting of 8th July 2015 were ratified.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Rushcliffe Nature conservation Forum. (Alan) Meeting EL Village Hall Saturday 10th October 2015 9.15 a.m. Interesting programme. Short FMP presentation at 12.45. Mollie unable to attend but would provide handouts. Alan to give presentation. Ann and Kevin may contribute. Others attending may need to answer questions. Neil will conduct Tour of MP at 2p.m. ACTION : ALL MEMBERS

Rushcliffe Biodiversity Mapping Project. MP is mentioned in relation to wildlife corridors.

Recording hay bale count (Trevor) 98 bales harvested. 91 last year, 95 in 2015, 125 in 2012. Bales per field not recorded. Value of the crop was discussed, but there was nothing new. Trevor said that hay prices were quoted monthly on the Defra website, under Commodities. ACTION: TREVOR

Research : This was a FMP “object” and had been raised by a Parish councillor. Trevor felt that the various surveys could be classed as research, if carried out for several years with evaluation of results. He would approach Nottingham University at Sutton Bonington with an offer to involve them, but was not optimistic. ACTION: TREVOR

Grass cutting : Neil said that grass in the arboretum would be cut later this year. He did not think that late cutting inhibited growth of flowers.

Liaison with schools (Mollie) Nothing to report.

Trees encroaching on Manor Farm Meadow. (Ann) These overhung gardens and formed a frost pocket. Alan thought householders could cut overhanging branches themselves. It was felt to be an ELPC matter, but Neil would look into it. ACTION: NEIL

Arboretum damage. Alan described vandalism of common lime and birch. It had been partially rectified by Kevin and himself. Neil warned that all ash trees were likely to die. The fungal infection coming our way killed complete trees, with no succeeding sapling growth.

Osiery John pointed out that willows for planting in March needed to be ordered months in advance. Willows currently growing were not fine enough for baskets, which was a traditional East Leake industry. 100 sets would cost £20-£50. The land would need to be rotavated. A rotavator could be hired locally. John said that he did not know the identity of the three species currently growing in the osiery, but an unknown FMP Member did know. Trevor to find out.

ACTION: JOHN, TREVOR.

Sessile oak provenance. It was decided to source good quality container grown trees. Trevor pointed out the rule that they should be fairly local. Andy would approach possible nurseries. Trevor felt that the question of sessile oak provenance should still be pursued with Frosts, if only to provide feedback. ACTION: ANDY, NEIL, TREVOR

Offer of oak and ash saplings.(Kevin) A colleague had offered oak and ash saplings. The offer was declined with thanks. The request for the colleague's mother to be remembered by her name in the arboretum book held in the Parish Office was accepted. ACTION: KEVIN

Damage by dog bin clearers. New clearers have caused damage. Alan to liaise with Lesley. ACTION: ALAN

Willow structure (John) There was some growth around the base. There had been some damage to the osiery.

Recording of "odd jobs". (Trevor) Time spent (e.g. repairing damage) during the course of walking in MP should be recorded for Mollie.

Facebook site.(Ian, Mollie) 172 "page likes". No unpleasant comments. Some photographs have been widely distributed.

Liaison with fire service. (Alan) It was decided that this was an ELPC matter.

Hay rattle seed. Neil needed 1kg, costing about £200, for the flower strip on Oak Meadow. Andy said money was available. Kevin asked if self propagation was not sufficient. Trevor pointed out that the weed was cut before seed was shed.

Himalayan Balsam Eric said that the plant in Sheep Bank Lane (opposite Costock Road Pavilion) was Japanese knotweed, not as reported at our July meeting. It was not thought to pose a threat to MP.

Paths and desire Lines (Neil) Steve had mown grass on each side of paths and there had been some strimming and flaying. Desire lines had been left until next year.

Awards received (Alan) "As part of our application this year for a Community Green Flag Award, we also mentioned our activities with regard to habitat change for pollinators. This was assessed and we were placed in the top group of those put forward. The certificate awarded is currently in the Parish Office".

Fracking (Trevor) Two invitations to attend "Frack free Nottinghamshire" on 19th September had been received. It was agreed to decline. ACTION: TREVOR

Monthly Amenities Committee Meetings: (Alan) No need to attend the next meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (TREVOR)

Section Reports were needed for the AGM on November 18th. Mollie had indicated that she wished to retire at the AGM and delegation of her various duties were discussed, Ann agreed to take on schools liaison. Preparation of the Newsletter posed difficulties. Kevin thought that her retirement would be in phases.

TREASURERS REPORT – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 6/9/15

CREDIT	
Initial Balance in Bank(1/11/2015)	£821.09
MAG PLC Grant [£700 - split £360 gen funds, £340 Arb Spons]	£360

Membership Subscriptions [to date]	£485
Arboretum Sponsorship[to date]	£560
Membership Donations[to date]	£156
Sale of Notelets/photos/calenders	£7
East Leake Carnival	£32.85
TOTAL	£2421.94

DEBIT

Malcolm Lane – Arboretum Lecturn	£840
Neil Hunter [New sessile Oak Collection]	£12
Lantern Lane Primary School	£30
East Leake Carnival booking fee	£20
Purchase of 3 x Mattocks	£53.94
Purchase of 3 x Fence posts	£16.77
TOTAL	£972.71

<u>Balance carried forward</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£1449.23</u>
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Balance as at 13/7/15 – General Funds		£889.23
Arboretum Sponsorship		£560

Andy Denker [Treasurer] 6/9/15

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Neil reported a proliferation of dens. The police were probably too busy to be involved.

Andrew had photographed a motorcycle active in the Park

ACTIVITIES

July 11th Docks, ragwort. Clear path SW Gibson's Field.

September 12th Tidy paths. Lop American Dogwood.

October 3rd Tidy up for walk on 10th. Ann suggested leave bottles in a pile.

November 14th Scrub clearance. Nest boxes.

December 12th Scrub clearance

Ian offered to conduct an autumn/winter bird walk. Welcomed by Committee. ACTION: IAN

Date of next meeting Wednesday 13th January 2016. AGM 18th November 2015