

**Minutes of the Friends of Meadow Park Committee Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at  
7.30 pm at East Leake Parish Office**

Present: Ann Weekley (Chair)  
 Andy Denker (Treasurer)  
 Paul Phillips (Rushcliffe Borough Council)  
 Alan Barlow  
 Kevin Gibbons  
 Neil Hunter  
 Eric Bryson  
 Mel Roper (Parish Council)  
 Brenda Lewis (Publicity Secretary)

Item Number	Agenda Item	Action
1	<p><b>Apologies and Acknowledgements</b></p> <p>Apologies from: Trevor Jones (Secretary), Ian Morrissey, John Roulstone, Marie Males</p>	
2	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
3	<p><b>Minutes of the Last Meeting</b></p> <p>Approved as a true and accurate record.            Brenda to arrange for them to be uploaded to the village website.</p>	Brenda
4	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Grass cutting</b>            Richard Jenks was the only one to put in a tender to cut the grass. The suggested time scale of cutting is between 1<sup>st</sup> August and late September. The arboretum is to be included in this year's cut. <b>Ann</b> to discuss timing with Richard.</p> <p><b>Management Plan</b>            Plan had been amended in the light of previous discussion. Clarifications have been made regarding the cutting of the margins either side of the pathways. It may be that the arboretum has to be cut every year for accessibility as labels on trees need to be visible and people need to be able to walk safely to read them. Also dry grass can be a fire hazard, so best to cut it annually.</p> <p><b>Bateman Road Boundary</b>            Recent problems with quadbikes have been addressed. Residents in the area have been asked to keep an eye out for quadbikes and the police have been informed. The damage is not significant, though it is obviously a nuisance. The situation needs to be monitored.</p>	<p>Ann</p> <p>Paul (when all changes have been made)</p> <p>Kevin</p>

	<p><b>Liaison with East Leake Academy</b> (and primary schools) This has proved to be a very rewarding experience. A day of habitat analysis, involving much grid sampling, was undertaken by Year 12 students and their teachers, and was assisted by <b>Ann</b>. The primary schools are in the loop and further links will be made in the next academic year (September).</p> <p><b>Arboretum</b> All trees have been inspected. Some netting has been removed as it was no longer needed. Another sessile oak is needed as the latest one has expired. <b>Kevin</b> has a small sapling and will grow it on. The alder is also failing.</p> <p><b>Strimmer</b> On the recommendation of <b>Alan</b> and <b>Neil</b> it has been decided not to replace the strimmer. However, if the strimmer is thought to be important in the near future we can apply for funds to buy one and get the necessary training from the Wild Life Trust. <b>Mel</b> will contact the Parish Council regarding the grass that grows around the benches. If they can cut it appropriately there is no need for a strimmer.</p> <p><b>Willow</b> The existing willow is looking very good. Pollarding of some of the trees needs to be considered. Position is to be monitored and <b>Tom Pettit</b> of the Borough Council asked for advice if necessary.</p> <p><b>Breeding Bird Survey</b> The signs regarding ground nesting birds may be removed at the end of July.</p> <p><b>Facebook Site</b> <b>Mel</b> reported a very good response to the site and photographs are uploaded on a regular basis.</p> <p><b>Publicity, Recruitment Drive</b> An A5 leaflet is to be produced to advertise the park. A map of the park will be on one side and the information/membership form on the other. The wording was discussed and finalised. Thistlebank graphics have offered their services in making the flyer attractive. It is hoped that the information side of the flyer may be printed in the Village Show Programme and the East Leake Times. <b>Alan</b> will approach <b>Ron Hetherington</b> for funds to facilitate the printing of the flyer. It was agreed that Thistlebank printers would be asked to print 3,500 A5 flyers for us at a cost of £205.</p> <p><b>Archaeology</b> Ursilla Spence (County Archaeologist) and Emily Gillott (Community Archaeologist) led a walk around the park on Wed 6<sup>th</sup> July and it proved to be very interesting and informative. Emily will email a synopsis of the findings. It was very pleasing to have FMP member s and History Society</p>	<p>Ann</p> <p>Andy D</p> <p>Mel</p> <p>All</p> <p>Ian</p> <p>Mel</p> <p>Brenda/ Alan</p>
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	<p>members walking and talking together. Alan will write a formal letter of thanks to the archaeologists.</p> <p><b>Village show</b> As noted above it is hoped to include an advert for Meadow Park in the Programme for the show.</p> <p><b>Eradication of American Dogwood</b> Ongoing. The situation needs to be monitored and a planned approach will be worked out.</p> <p><b>Secretary's Report</b> Trevor has kept us up to date with development regarding the management plan and we are all up to speed on this. Trevor is stepping down in the autumn so the position of secretary will be vacant. Brenda will upload the minutes of the committee meeting held in May onto the village website.</p> <p><b>Treasurer's Report</b> Membership is now at 82. Safety equipment, saws, loppers and storage boxes have now been bought. More tools are needed. Marie Males may be able to help here. Andy gave copies of the Statement of Account to committee members. (See end of minutes for this).</p> <p><b>Activity Mornings</b> May 14<sup>th</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup> Activity Days were both used to inspect the arboretum trees, cut back shrubbery and tidy pathways. On the Activity Day it is intended to look at the growth of Russian Vine (mile a minute) with a view to tackling it in the autumn when we will be sure there are no nesting birds in the vicinity of the vine.</p>	<p>Alan</p> <p>Brenda</p> <p>All</p> <p>Brenda</p> <p>Andy D</p>
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5	<p><b>AOB</b> One nesting box has fallen off a tree – needs putting back up. Parish Council ladders to be used for this. Ragwort needs pulling up. We are lucky this year as there is not too much of this rank weed. Docks need to be cut in July. <b>Neil</b> has produced a plan for the work rota in the park.</p> <p>Regarding woodland management – a felling licence is not needed for small trees. Regarding shrub clearance Meadow Park would be unlikely to fall outside the limits set by Rushcliffe Borough Council. Tom Pettit of RBC is the person who can advise on this if thought necessary.</p> <p>The walks for the public to learn about butterflies, flowers etc will not take place this year</p> <p><b>Paul Phillips</b> needs to complete the number of volunteer hours for 2015. <b>Andy</b> will send him the numbers.</p>	<p>Neil</p> <p>Andy D</p>
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	<p><b>Neil</b> suggested he visit the archives office holding aerial photographs of Meadow Park. Agreed. Some funding for travel expenses is sought.</p> <p>Clearing some of the bank on the southern side of Kingston Brook would improve the sunlight/openness in certain areas and improve its amenity value.</p> <p>Risk Assessment for Activity Mornings: <b>Alan</b> gave a copy of Rushcliffe's safety code to <b>Kevin</b>.</p> <p><b>Neil</b> reported 28 orchid spikes in Hall Field and <b>Kevin</b> reported all the buckthorn trees have survived and many have Brimstone butterflies on them.</p> <p>We have been asked to report any Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knot wood we find in the park as Rushcliffe have an eradication programme.</p>	<p>Neil</p> <p>For discussion</p> <p>All</p>
6	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b>  Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7.30 pm  Venue: The Parish Office</p>	

**FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK  
TREASURERS REPORT – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT  
4/7/16**

The balance in the account at the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2015 was £1619.23  
 This is split between: General Funds £934.23  
 and Arboretum Sponsorship £685

**SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT  
CREDIT**

Initial Balance in Bank	£1619.23
Membership Subscriptions [82 ren/new to date]	£537
Arboretum Sponsorship	£0.00
Other items	£8.00
Grants	£136.74
Membership Donation	£533
[This includes a wonderful individual donation of £500]	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2833.97</b>

**DEBIT**

Purchase of several items of new safety equipment	£198.80
Purchase of saws and loppers	£136.74
Purchase of various storage boxes	£20.97
As at 4/7/16	<b>TOTAL £973.54</b>
Balance as at 4/7/16 : Total	£1860.43
General Funds	£1306.43
Arboretum Sponsorship	£554

A thankyou to RBC for the grant from the Biodiversity Support Fund to assist in the purchase of new equipment

There will be two debits within the next few weeks, these will be for:  
 1) The new seat for the Arboretum for £644 [£536 for the seat and £108 for delivery] will be paid to ELPC.  
 2) The purchase of new spades, forks and rakes – estimated at £120

Andy Denker [Treasurer] 4/7/16