

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
7th September 2016 7.30-8.45 P.M.

Apologies for absence: Andrew, Eric, Paul, Alan

Present: Ann, Neil, Andy, Mel, Brenda, John, Trevor (minutes).

Minutes of the FMPC Meeting of 6th July 2016 were ratified.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Grass cutting contract. Neil said that he thought that the contract had not been signed and the contractor was not covered by insurance. In the absence of a signed contract, responsibility for removal of arisings from the arboretum was not defined. Ann said that the contract is to be renewed annually.

Arboretum: The public wished to approach trees to use their mobile phones to interrogate labels. They wanted short grass. Neil said that recently planted trees had died because they had not received sufficient water. Grass around trees competed for water and should be cut. Trevor suggested geomembranes around trees to inhibit grass but allow flow of water. Neil was critical of the quality of tight bound trees purchased. Trevor observed that some recommended soaking root balls in water for 24 hours and separating roots before planting.

Management Plan Ann said that there had been considerable correspondence, mainly involving Neil and Trevor. Trevor proposed that he construct and circulate something approaching a final draft reply to Paul, preferably by the next Amenities Committee Meeting and definitely before Paul's dateline of 30th September 2016.

Neil proposed that the map should occupy a full page. Trevor reported that Andrew could include the course of the original Kingston Brook. It was frequently referred to at meetings.

Bateman Road Boundary. Neil stated that this was on hold until next year. RBC had mown saplings recently planted by a school. (More details please)

Liaison with East Leake Academy. Ann reported that they were not interested during the winter, but would be active in the summer.

Liaison with junior schools Lantern Lane School had requested large logs which would not be easily stolen. Andy said that he might be able to get some from Charnwood.

ACTION: ANDY

Ann said that the proposed essay prize should wait until the New Year.

Willow bed extension. (John) East Leake had an important heritage in relation to basket making. He proposed planting traditional varieties of willow as an 80 sq.m. extension of the osier beds. The ground would need to be cultivated and a geomembrane put down. No chemicals would be used. Total cost £251.40. Neil thought that a digger would be needed: it

would be of value in relation to another project. It was agreed to support John's proposal and inform interested bodies, such as the History Society.

Andy to consider funding.

ACTION: ANDY

Facebook site. This was reported to be well run. Brenda said that the direct link from the East Leake Parish Council site to facebook had proved popular.

Publicity . The leaflet distribution in Parish Notes had been a big success. It had attracted over 30 new members. Ann said that there should have been a cut off strip. People retuning the complete leaflet deprived themselves of the map. Mel proposed that the flyer should be put into the welcome pack of all new houses.

ACTION: BRENDA

Archaeology Neil had not had time to visit Nottingham to study maps.

Eradication of American Dogweed. Trevor described how this was planted in error by RBC in about 2000. It had advanced very considerably, demonstrating that control had failed. If it could be eradicated by 2020, FMP could look forward to a century of peace. If left, a century of removing some every year. Not the most efficient use of limited resources. It is not exclusively a FMPC problem. It was agreed that Trevor write to Tom Pettit, RBC tree expert, on the matter. Chemical control was out

ACTION: TREVOR

Village Show Only a few flyers had been distributed.

Britsih Gypsum Offer. £150 had been received and a request to discuss involvement of their staff in a project. Trevor to arrange a meeting.

ACTION: TREVOR

Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Forum. meeting at Gotham Saturday 8th October. All invited. It coincides with FMP Saturday activity, but we would not postpone.

Amenities Committee: Would meet on 20th September.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (TREVOR)

AGM. Trevor described the value of the Annual Report basically as a record of achievement. It was more widely read than some anticipated. Members reports were requested by the beginning of November. Preferably brief.

TREASURERS REPORT (ANDY)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 5/9/16

The balance in the account at the 1st 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 [126 members ren/new to date]	£677
Arboretum Sponsorship	£0.00
Other items	£12.00
Grants	£136.74
Membership Donation	£573
[This includes a wonderful individual donation of £500]	
TOTAL	<u>£3017.97</u>

DEBIT

Purchase of new seat for the Arboretum	£644
Notts Archeology team	£25.75
Purchase of 3500 leaflets	£205
As at 5/9/16	<u>TOTAL £1848.29</u>
Balance as at 5/9/16 : Total	£1169.68
General Funds	£575.68
Arboretum Sponsorship	£594

There will be one debit within the next week, this will be for:

The purchase of two new trees for the Arboretum including posts and associated sundries plus delivery – £253.32

Funding applications

ACTIVITY DAYS / EXTRA DAYS REPORT (Andy).

JULY 9TH ACTIVITY DAY

There was a general tidy up of the overhanging growth over the paths, with particular attention on the 4 entrances. Litter picking and removal of Ragwort from Stonebridge
12 hrs total

Overall total 212hrs

JULY 12TH EXTRA ACTIVITY DAY

Removal of Ragwort from Stonebridge, Little Meadow and the Arboretum
3hrs total

AUGUST 25TH EXTRA ACTIVITY DAY

Collection and removal of Hay cut in the Arboretum plus cutting of grass around trees
44 hrs total

Overall total 101hrs

FUTURE ACTICVITY DAYS (Neil)

September 10th General tidying, cutting back paths. Remove trees arboretum.

October 8th Hall Field. Scrub cutting. Dogwood removal.

November 12th Hedgelaying 1

December 10th Hedgelaying 2

2017

January 14th Woodland coppicing

February 11th Hedge/tree planting

March 11th Hall Field 2: Scrub cutting

April 8th Odd jobs. Annual cleanup?

Future Meetings:

AGM Wednesday 16th November. Wednesdays 4th January 2017 1st March , 3rd May , 5th July

Trevor 8th September 2016

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