

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

10th January 2018

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Andrew, Paul, Marie, Eric.

Present: Kev, Andy, Ann, Alan, Mel, Neil, Brenda, Ian, John, Trevor, Gwen.

2) MINUTES OF THE FMPC MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 2017 WERE RATIFIED.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Mowing of headlands (Ann) – Ann passed around the map showing the proposed yearly plans for the rotation of headlands. It was agreed that Richard Jenks had adhered to the plan this year and left goods amount of headland in the correct places.

NEXT STEPS – Andrew to produce a digital copy of this. (Kev to check that Andrew is ok doing this, and if so, Ann to send the latest plan to him).

Footpath repairs (Andy) – This issue has been passed via Conrad to the Amenities Committee. This issue is now moving forward, with the Parish Council assuming responsibility (subject to some other matters that they need to resolve first).

Constitution update (Andy) – An issue with the current constitution came up when Andy passed the accounts for ratification with the Parish Clerk, as some items on the Constitution are now out of date. Any changes will not be significant, and Ann and Andy have done some draft amendments.

NEXT STEPS – Trevor and Gwen to review the document and feedback to the Committee.

Hall Field (Ann) – Following some feedback from members who expressed concern at the growth of dog walking in the park (and the effect of this on wildlife), it was discussed whether we should have a dog free zone in the park. Hall field was felt to be the best area for this. Ann has put together some initial wording. It was also felt that this should be implemented during the main bird nesting and wildlife activity time (March to September). Rushcliffe Country Park, already have a scheme in place, with red/yellow and green zones, and it was discussed whether we should copy this? Also, narrowing the path into Hall Field was discussed as an option.

NEXT STEPS – Kevin to find out what Rushcliffe do, via Paul Phillips.

Arboretum (Andy) –

NEXT STEPS - An inspection will be carried out later this month to confirm the number of labels and posts required. The post count at present is 13, these will be approx £4.50 each. (Andy)

Forest School Update: (Ann) – Ann has been in touch with Lisa (Forest School) and has given her a copy of the Management Plan. Lisa has asked how the children can get more involved in managing the area. We discussed the possibility of planting shrubs or flowers in the area, with the proviso of taking into account the issues of planting anything in “Electric Avenue”, but it was felt that some planting could be done in the general area.

NEXT STEPS – Ann and Andy to speak to Lisa about progressing this, and Andy to consider possible shrubs to purchase.

Willow Bed Extension: (John) – It was discussed how the area should be made ready for willow planting. Using Richard Jenks was seen as an option, but John felt that he would be able to get his specialist tractor ready to do the work.

NEXT STEPS – John to get his tractor and plough completed, and then let us know once this is done (contact Ann), so that we can schedule the work (for potentially February or March). Ann will then inform the Parish Council.

Willow Bed – Willow Crafts: (Mel / John) – As green willow is not the best for weaving, it will be best to allow the willow to dry out completely, and then re-soak it, which will enable it to be pliable for weaving.

NEXT STEPS – John to sort through the willow (currently lying on the ground) to see what can be used, and then take it away to dry out. The willow will need to be ready for East Leake Carnival on the 23rd of June.

NEXT STEPS - (Carried forward from September minutes)– We could work on the existing willow structure to turn this into the shape of a basket – to be led by John, potentially at a working party to be arranged.

– A workshop day for creating willow items / gifts to be organised by John at a time to be agreed. This will also be co-ordinated with Brenda who could e-mail other local organisations such as the history and allotment societies in order to get more people involved.

Tree Planting: (Ann) – A lady contacted Ann about the possibility of planting a tree in the park, in memory of her Daughter (tree to be planted without a plaque). This was agreed by the Committee subject to finding a suitable location.

NEXT STEPS – Ann to discuss suitable planting locations with the lady.

Publicity / Competitions / Website / Facebook update: (Brenda) – It was generally agreed that our publicity is very good at the moment. In particular, the plinths are looking great, and our Facebook page is being well maintained. We do however need more photos of the park (and village) for the competition (to be used for the next set of notelets)

NEXT STEPS – All to take photographs of the park and village and send these through to Brenda in jpeg form.

River Soar Catchment Partnership : (Ian) – Ian attended a river restoration meeting, about the roll out of the “Water Management Fund”. This is a DEFRA pot of money to do restoration works and other initiatives. However there are currently no Drainage Boards working with the partnership. In terms of getting assistance from the partnership, our issues would need to be termed as “moderate or worst”, or involve an SSI etc, however we do not meet these criteria. However, there is also a separate fund called the “Fisheries Improvement Fund”. We may be able to tap into this to get some small funds (maybe 1 to 2k) for improving a small stretch of Kingston Brook, and this in turn could prove to be a stepping stone for obtaining further funds. We do however also need to get the Internal Drainage Board involved on this as well, before we get started. Our proposal should recommend some “in channel” improvements, such as wood deflectors etc, we would also need some mechanical assistance to clear some vegetation on the bankside.

NEXT STEPS – Ian to talk to the Fisheries Improvements Agency to try and get things moving, also Ian and Neil to walk the brook to assess the areas for improvement.

Severn Trent Sewerage Update: (Alan)

NEXT STEPS – Alan to contact the colleague of the person who showed us around last time, to fix a date for our next visit (probably around May) to visit the West Leake works.

Bee Worlds: (Kev)

NEXT STEPS – Kevin to purchase seeds and soil for commencing the Bee World in February.

Library Records: (Trevor) – The box in the Library was put there for members to access information about the park, and meetings etc. Back in 2009, there were 46 members not on e-mail, and hence

having the box was probably useful. However, we now have only 8 members not contactable by e-mail. Despite this, it was still felt that it is worthwhile to keep the box in the Library, and put items in there such as the Management Plan, Constitution, and other key pamphlets about geology and the brook in there.

NEXT STEPS – Brenda to also add information about the East Leake website, and Facebook page.

Meeting dates for 2018: (Kev) It was agreed the meeting dates should be on the first Wednesday of the month (every 2 months).

NEXT STEPS – Kev to issue dates in the minutes (see below)

7th of March

2nd of May

4th of July

5th of September

7th of November

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

E-Mails from Rushcliffe Conservation: (Ann) – Ann receives quite a lot of e-mails from Gordon Dyne about conservation courses that are being run.

NEXT STEPS – Ann to be selective with regards to which ones to forward on to the Committee and members.

Recycled seat (Andy): - Andy has received another seat that he has treated. He has also received a donation of ballast. The plan is to put this seat at the top side of Play Field.

NEXT STEPS – Andy to e-mail Committee, with regards to when he requires assistance to put in this seat.

4) FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK

TREASURERS REPORT – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 8/1/18

The accounts for the year 1st November 2016 to the 31st October 2017 have been ratified by Neil Lambert.

My thanks to Neil Lambert for taking on the task of examining the accounts and also again for the membership of FMP, and the wider village community for being generous with their subscriptions and donations.

The balance in the account at the 1 st of November 2017 was	£1911.79
This is split between: General Funds	£1404.79
and Arboretum Sponsorship	£507

As outlined at the AGM there was one item of expenditure in the process of payment at the start of the 2017 – 2018 year. This has now been paid, namely: £876 for the purchase of two off benches along with plaques and delivery.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT

CREDIT

Initial Balance in Bank	£1911.79
Membership Subscriptions [40 renewals to date]	£300
Donations [Including collection boxes]	£68.50
Sale of Notelets	£42

TOTAL £2322.29

DEBIT

Two off benches £876

TOTAL £876

Balance as at 8/1/18 :	Total	£1446.29
	General Funds	£939.29
	Arboretum Sponsorship	£507

Further to the above, the donation from the East Midlands Airport Community Fund of £700 for the benches – EMA have been notified that the invoice has been paid and we await the BACS transfer. Also the membership donation of £200 from British Gypsum is still ongoing.

Andy Denker [Treasurer] 8/1/18

NEXT STEPS – Andy to phone EMA Airport Fund to chase up the £700 donation (or go via Marie).

– Kev to put on the next agenda a discussion point of how we should use our funds going forwards.

5) FUNDING APPLICATIONS: (Alan) – None at the moment.

6) ACTIVITIES UPDATE : (Andy) - The Scheduled Activity days in November and December covered the cutting back of dogwood, brash and wild rose in and around the copse adj to the Arboretum and the fire site. The willow was also cut in Gibsons along with various small hawthorn/elder along the south bank of the brook

Total hours worked to date - 46

The Unscheduled Activity days in November covered a wildflower and Arboretum check, fitting of plaques to benches, bee world planting and information stalls outside Mel's and CO-OP.

Total hours worked to date – 11.5 AED 8/1/18

7) NEXT ACTIVITY DAYS

January 13th, February 10th.

8) NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 7th March, 7.30pm, Parish Offices.