

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

7th March 2018

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Andrew, Paul, John.

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

2) MINUTES OF THE FMPC MEETING OF JANUARY 2018 WERE RATIFIED.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Meet the village (Ann) – The event is on April 7th. Set up at 8 a.m for 9am start (finishes 1 pm). We will try to get new members as well as giving out membership application, and walk leaflets. We also talked about the possibility of purchasing an i-pad for future use, for events like this.

NEXT STEPS – Ann and Kev to head up with potential help from Mel, Alan, Keith and Gwen (only if they have available time as they are also doing other activities at the event).

- Brenda to update the Arboretum book and pass photos and forms etc to Ann.
- Kev and Ann to decide what to use for the backing board and table.
- Andy to get the collection box from Mel and pass to Ann.

Mowing of headlands (Ann)

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).

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came up when Andy passed the accounts for ratification with the Parish Clerk, as some items on the Constitution are now out of date.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. Ann, Trevor, Gwen and Andy have now produced a revised version (e-mailed out by Andy)

NEXT STEPS – All members of the Committee to review the document and feedback their comments to Gwen by the start of May. We will then review any potential changes at the May meeting, before feeding the final document through to the Parish Council, and Rushcliffe.

Hall Field – Dog issues(Kev) – After speaking to Keith, the Park Ranger at Rushcliffe country Park, Kev outlined what they do and how they enforce their signage. In terms of our park the sort of signage used may not be appropriate, and also fencing areas off as Rushcliffe do, may not be the way to go. It was felt that the best thing to do, would be to canvas our membership on this subject. It was also felt that the main area of concern is Hall Field, where we should perhaps consider making this a “dogs on lead” area only. In the meantime the bird nesting signs will be put out as per last year. We also discussed the possibility of having some sort of unofficial uniform (clothing with logo), which could help show our authority when discussing any issues with problem dog walkers.

NEXT STEPS – Kevin to discuss with Brenda and Ann how to canvas members, and potentially dog walkers.

- Mel to investigate the cost of having t shirts / sweat shirts produced with the Meadow park logo on (as per Parish council uniform for Steve and Andy).
- Mel to put something in the Parish Newsletter.

Arboretum (Andy) – An inspection was carried out in early Feb to confirm the number of labels and posts required. One further label will be required The post count at present is 13, these will be approx £4.50 each. Unfortunately on the way to the hedge laying session it was noticed that 4 posts had been ripped from the ground along with some labels which had been destroyed.

– Andy to do another inspection to get a complete total of labels required. The proposal to fit new posts is now up for review.

Forest School Update: (Ann) – The planting of trees and wildflowers with the first group was very successful.

NEXT STEPS – The next group is to be helped plant wildflowers as per the first group. (Ann and Kev).

Willow Bed Extension: We agreed to sow some poppy seeds in the willow bed area.

NEXT STEPS – As John wasn't present at the meeting, Kevin is to contact John about the progress with his tractor for ploughing work in this area.

Willow Bed – Willow Crafts: (Mel / John) –

The carnival date is the 23rd of June, we plan to have a stall, or perhaps book a gazebo in May if we plan to do the willow crafts, we need to check with John at our next meeting what the plan is for this. We also plan to present the top photos for people to choose from (for the notelets).

NEXT STEPS – Speak to John with regards to the plan for the carnival (all).

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) – There has been a request by a family with regards to putting in a bench with a plaque, but Ann has told them that we don't do plaques, so they are considering a bench only. Another lady wanted a tree (for Annette – Natalie's sister), we could do this in the Autumn. We agreed that, any trees planted must be native, and that we must be involved in planting them, and no memorial plaques are to be included.

NEXT STEPS – Any new trees planted should be added to the Arboretum book along with a dedication in the book (Brenda)

Publicity / Competitions / Website / Facebook update: (Brenda) – The plan at our May meeting is to select 20 or so pictures, with a view to getting people at the carnival to select their favourites.

NEXT STEPS – Brenda to bring pictures to the May meeting (including Village photos).

– Plinths to be updated once the weather improves (Brenda).

River Soar Catchment Partnership : (Ian) –

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 (however the Fisheries Improvement Agency are not currently answering e-mails).

Severn Trent Sewerage Update: (Alan)

NEXT STEPS – Glen Yeomans agreed to arrange a date in May, but this was superceded by a general invite in April that a number of people are attending.

Bee Worlds: (Kev)

NEXT STEPS – Kevin to organise the bee world to be dug and seed sown at the next working party.

Library Records : (Trevor) - Trevor suggested we add a "Contact us" sheet, to be pasted on the inside of the box. Also a sheet requesting a date and tick from any readers will be included. We also discussed the possibility of adding a poster for the regular walks and any leaflets. It was also noted that Meadow Park was not particularly well covered in a "Nature in Rushcliffe Pamphlet" and this should be mentioned to Paul Phillips.

NEXT STEPS – Trevor to add in the contact list and website references.

Committee Form Signing (Ann) – Required for section G5 of the Constitution

NEXT STEPS – To be signed at the May meeting

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Foxglove seeds: (Eric)

NEXT STEPS – Eric has some spare seeds to sow that he will spread in Meadow Park

Poo bags (Mel)

NEXT STEPS – Mel investigating

Illegal trails (Andy)- part of the hedgerow was ripped out, creating a new path through Little Meadow that would damage this area. East Leake Parish Council have been Informed. A new section of fencing has now been put up to fill the gap in the hedgerow.

New species in the park (Neil) – A Grey Alder has been identified in the South East section of Bateman Field. Also there is spread of Bamboo (from a garden) on the North edge of the park (above Play Field) that needs to be controlled

NEXT STEPS – Neil to look at regulations with regards to Bamboo.

- **Andy to add the control of this to one of the upcoming work parties.**

Upcoming meeting dates

2nd of May

4th of July

5th of September

7th of November

4) FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK **TREASURERS REPORT – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 5/3/18**

Many thanks again for the membership of FMP, and the wider village community for being generous with their subscriptions and donations over the last two months.

The balance in the account at the 1st of November 2017 was £1911.79

This is split between: General Funds £1404.79

and Arboretum Sponsorship £507.00

We have now received the grant from EMA community Fund for whom we can't thank enough for being considered and awarded.

There was also another excellent donation from the village collection boxes – Mel's, Flower shop and Butchers – for £63

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT

CREDIT

Initial Balance in Bank	£1911.79
Membership Subscriptions [130 renewed to date]	£600
Donations [Including collection boxes to date]	£163.50
Sale of Notelets	£42
Grant from Manchester Airport [EMA Community Fund]	£700
TOTAL	£3417.29

DEBIT

Two off benches	£876
TOTAL	£876

Balance as at 5/3/18 : Total	£2541.29
General Funds	£2034.29
Arboretum Sponsorship	£507

There will be 4 items for payment in the next week:

Naturescape – Shrubs and wild flower seeds for Forest School £126.73

Naturescape – Corn poppy seeds £10.50

David Musson – Fencing supplies for Little Meadow repairs £49.66.

Purchase of bags of compost/wild flower seeds for the Bee areas £31

Also the membership donation of £200 from British Gypsum is still ongoing.

Andy Denker [Treasurer] 5/3/18

5) FUNDING APPLICATIONS: (Alan) – Looking at funding for an i-pad to use for Meadow Park publicity (photos of park etc).

6) ACTIVITIES UPDATE : (Andy) - The Scheduled Activity days in January and February covered:

JAN - the tidying of the willow cut for various projects, cutting back of the Hawthorn and Blackthorn in the Arboretum copse. Opening out and clearing the drainage system in Playfield and clearing areas around the bird nesting sign posts. Preparing hedge in corner of Playfield for new bench. Litter picking.

FEB - Cutting turf for beeworld no 3 , repairing hole cut in hedge in Little Meadow. Cutting up of fallen tree in Arboretum copse, and completing dead hedge around area. Litter picking

Total hours worked to date - 92

The Unscheduled Activity days in January and February covered:

JAN - Liaise with Forest School, cut dogwood in 'Electric Avenue', arrange fire site. Fit dead hedge in hole created in hedge Little Meadow. Arrange brash into dead hedge in Arboretum copse. Working with Forest School – Bird identification

FEB – Arboretum tree inspection, pruning of fallen tree in Arboretum copse, inspection of unauthorised paths cut in Little Meadow and Hall Field. Fire to burn all brash created in Arboretum copse. Work with Forest School to plant shrubs and sow wild flower seeds in ' Electric Avenue' area. Hedge laying in Arboretum copse.

Fit fence to Little Meadow hedge and fit signs to fence and inspect further damage.

Total hours worked to date – 140.5

AED 4/3/18

NEXT STEPS (ACTIVITY DAYS) – Neil and Kevin to do a rough plan for this year, going into next year.

7) NEXT ACTIVITY DAYS

Activity days are on the second Saturday of each month (weather permitting)

8) NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 2nd May, 7.30pm, Parish Offices.