

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

4th July 2018

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Alan, Andrew, Paul, Ian.

Present: Kev, Andy, Ann, Mel, Neil, Brenda, Eric, John, Trevor, Conrad.

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

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Kingston Brook potential development plans: (Chris Manning)

Ann reminded the Committee that we are strictly an advisory body, as Rushcliffe own the park and the Parish maintain it.

Chris and Matt (Severn Trent Internal Drainage Board) presented some ideas for Kingston and Sheepwash brook with regards to alleviating any potential future flooding risks.

- Currently all discussions are informal and nothing is in the public domain.
- Concern is around the confluence of Kingston and Sheepwash where there appears to be 10 year events of flooding.
- They are open minded as to how this could be tackled, but anything done would be Board maintained.

Ideas:

- Sheepwash brook could be diverted from the entrance to the park and the old course (of what we believe is the old Kingston Brook route could be re-instated). This could create a water course that is easier to maintain and environmental areas such as back waters and reed beds etc could be added. Possible issues with this would be whether this would flow effectively, given issue with the levels of the ground (gravity flow), plus damage to the ancient meadow, and the fact that water levels in Kingston brook could be effected.
- Kingston Brook main channel could be improved, in particular to stop flooding around the CO-OP area, however there was also a concern that this could create issue further upstream.

However, we did all agree in principle to some sort of development and improvements, and discussions are fluid (pardon the pun!), and on-going.

NEXT STEPS – Conrad asked Chris and Matt to keep us updated, so any further ideas and developments can be openly discussed.

Main mowing of park: (Ann) – Due to the unusually dry weather, Richard Jenks has offered to cut the Meadow early this year due to potential fire risk. Although this is less than ideal from a butterfly and insect perspective, it was agreed as long as the headlands and Oak Meadow strip were left uncut.

NEXT STEPS – Conrad to inform Richard Jenks to proceed.

Tidy team: (Mel) – A home owner has asked if brambles that are growing into her garden could be brought under control. There is also an issue with another garden, where bamboo has spread into Meadow Park.

NEXT STEPS – Mel to see if the tidy team could get involved in this (bramble issue), or we could do it as a joint effort with Meadow Park volunteers. Brenda also to speak to the home owner with the bamboo issue, to see how we can proceed with this.

Carnival update: (Ann) – Although we did not take much money, we did speak to a lot of people and give out membership forms, so it was generally good for exposure. John did a good job with his weaving demonstration even though we had good willow for stakes, but not as good for weaving. Also the ladies running the dog show donated their proceeds of £104 to our funds.

NEXT STEPS – Ann to see if existing stakes could be used for Forest School.

– Ann to send a thankyou message for the dog show donation

– John to look at the existing willow structure in the park with regards to develop it at the end of the year.

Data Protection Regulations: (Andy)

NEXT STEPS – 95% of the forms have been returned, and the list will be passed to Brenda.

Mowing of headlands: (Andrew) – Andrew has updated the digital plan, and passed around printed copies for review.

Constitution update: (Andy) – Sadly Gwen has resigned, however the last alterations were mailed out. Eric noticed an issue with P part 2, which was discussed and is to be changed from “a fifth” to “or a minimum of 10”.

NEXT STEPS – Andy to pass the amended copy to the Parish Council to review, and then it will need to be passed at our AGM.

Dog Warden: (Ann) – We currently do not have a dog warden

NEXT STEPS – Mel to post a message on Facebook, to see if anyone would like to do this.

Arboretum: (Andy) – Over the period of the latest heatwave the Alder and Downy Birch have been watered on a regular basis, the Downy Birch is hanging on but unfortunately the Alder has died. As this is the second Alder to succumb to lack of water it is perhaps now time to look at a different tree to replace it. The new labels will be fitted after the hay cut.

NEXT STEPS – We will decide in the autumn with regards to a replacement. We may plant a Sallow that Kevin has.

Forest School Update: (Ann / Andy) – No further fires have been noted nor damaged trees, signs have been produced by ELPC which will be used if necessary. Most of the shrubs are surviving but unfortunately due to lack of rain the wildflower seeds are not showing – perhaps next year will see them put on a show. After further liaisons with the teacher there will be a grand get together of the two classes on July 20th which will require some more den building material – this will be sorted on the next work party.

Also the next session starting in September, the class size will be increasing to 35, so an increase in logs will be required for the circle an estimated 8 off - 6foot long by at least 12 to 18 inches dia. Plus some tree stumps – approx 6.

NEXT STEPS – Andy to see if he can sort this and may get some more logs from Charnwood Lodge.

Willow Bed Extension: John confirmed that it is too late to do the extension this year, but the ploughing tractor has been made and is ready to use in the autumn.

NEXT STEPS – John to order his new sets of willow in October.

Tree planting and benches: (Ann) – Nothing to add with regards to bench requests

NEXT STEPS – A Beech has been purchased and is being looked after by Ann, for potential planting in the autumn.

Publicity / Competitions / Website / Facebook update: (Brenda) – Brenda has investigated the cost of the new flyers / membership form, and this will cost £273 for 3,000 leaflets (Thistle Bank). We all agreed this was ok. We also agreed that for doing carnival events etc, we need a banner (This will be approx. £60). The

new website is now up to date and easier to use than the old one. With regards to notelets, Brenda is progressing this, and it was suggested that some could have a space left on them, where people can add their own messages such as "Merry Christmas" etc.

NEXT STEPS – Brenda to progress flyers and banner

– **Brenda to speak to Hayley about using some of her pictures on the notelets and adding Meadow Park logo to the back.**

River Soar Catchment Partnership: (Ian) – Awaiting further developments

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Committee form signing – Just waiting for Alan to sign

Polo and T shirts (Mel) – Mel has been given prices of £6.90 and £4.90 respectively, which sounds very reasonable.

NEXT STEPS – Mel to progress.

New plant: (Neil) – Neil has identified 3 Pepper Saxifrage plants in Gibson's field. This is a newly identified plant for the park and is important as it is an indicator of ancient meadows.

4) FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK
TREASURERS REPORT – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 2/7/18

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

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT

CREDIT

Initial Balance in Bank	£1911.79
Membership Subscriptions [182 members to date]	£846
Donations [Including collection boxes to date]	£216.50
Arboretum Sponsorship	£527
TOTAL	£3716.29

DEBIT

ELPC printing of new membership forms	£30
TOTAL	£1165.79

Balance as at 2/7/18 : Total	£2550.50
General Funds	£2023.50
Arboretum Sponsorship	£527

Outstanding payments required over the next few weeks:

Purchase of 1 off new trolley [Screwfix]- £179.99

Purchase of 1 off new wheelbarrow [Screwfix] –£ 39.96

Associated security equipment - £57.74

Overall total – £277.69

Andy Denker [Treasurer] 2/7/18

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

6) ACTIVITIES UPDATE : (Andy) The Scheduled Activity day in May covered:

Walking Kingston Brook litter and debris picking, general litter picking. Sorting out willow for EL carnival. Tidy up Forest School area after bonfire. Add chippings from 'Electric Avenue' to path along Bateman Rd. Cut back of branches along paths. Tidying up Bee Worlds.

The Scheduled Activity day in June covered:

Cut back overhanging branches etc adj to all paths/entrances/seats. Cut back of overhanging branches along Kingston Brook [railway bridge section]

Total hours worked to date - 192

The Unscheduled Activity days in May and June covered:

General inspection of Park, assist Forest School. Fit refurbished bench in Play Field. Nest box survey after floods – estimated 6 new boxes required. Sort out new trolley and wheelbarrow, secure in FMP alley. Refit nest box in Bateman Rd area. Cut back undergrowth along Sheepwash to enable litter pick. Water Alder and Downy Birch. Ragwort removal

Total hours worked to date – 251 AED 2/7/18

7) NEXT ACTIVITY DAYS

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

8) NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 5th September, 7.30pm, Parish Offices.