

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

5th September 2018

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mel, John, Andrew, Eric, Brenda

Present: Kev, Andy, Ann, Alan, Neil, Trevor, Ian.

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

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Willow Bed Management: (Ann)

The Parish Council contacted Ann to say that a man from Gotham had asked about managing the willow bed and take some crop. However, having been shown the area, he has said that the area is too small to manage and suit his needs. He has however offered his services with regards to building things for us and help the Forest School children with basket weaving.

AGM Plans: (Ann)

NEXT STEPS – Ann to ask Parish Council for donation towards food and wine. (Done)

Constitution update: (Andy) – Andy asked for the rest of the Committee to read the latest constitution and feedback any alterations to him by the end of September. The Parish Council at this stage had already made their comments, the only major changes being those to banking procedures.

NEXT STEPS – Brenda to send out the resolution and constitution update to all members (Done and new constitution was approved at the AGM).

Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board: (Ann) – We are still awaiting their modelling for any changes (which may or may not happen), and will only discuss further if this occurs.

Arboretum: (Andy) – After another inspection, with the exception of the Alder, which has died, serious concerns are now being raised over the health of both the Larch and Juniper. The Larch has lost the majority of its needles, hopefully as this tree is deciduous it is helping itself by cutting down on moisture loss. The Juniper has an excess of brown needles and doesn't look very happy. The Downy Birch with the assistance of regular watering has survived. All the remaining trees, even though stressed are doing well. We have three trees standing by as additions/replacements – Beech [which has been provided as a family memory] Silver Birch, and Field Maple.

The new labels have at present not been fitted.

Forest School Update: (Ann / Andy) – No further fires have been noted, but two more damaged trees. Most of the shrubs are surviving but need a little TLC. The grand get together of approx one third of the school, 90 pupils, successfully took place on July 20th

As mentioned in the last report, the class size is extending to 35 pupils, thus the log circle has been enlarged with a couple of extra single seating logs. The tree stumps are still being investigated.

Willow Bed Extension:

NEXT STEPS – Kev to e-mail John to see what we may be able to be done in the autumn. (Done - we now plan to see what can be done in the New Year if John can arrange to get a vehicle to pull his plough).

Tree planting and benches: (Ann) – Tree planting and bench requests have gone quiet or fallen through. The small Beech tree is still with Ann to go in, and a spot has been picked to plant it (when the leaves fall).

If there is enough money made from the village show, a bench may be contributed (made to our specs and put in by us).

Publicity / Competitions / Website / Facebook update: (Brenda) –

- a. The leaflets have been printed on A5 – some samples are available. The wording has been updated in line with changes to privacy policy and our contact details.
- b. Mick at Thistlebank is working on a waterproof banner for us and this should be available in the autumn ready for the next time we will need to have a trestle table for an event.
- c. Re photographs, I have come to the conclusion that the park is not very photogenic and this makes it very difficult to take interesting/scenic views. The notelets are definitely on the back burner at the moment, but have not gone away. Hayley (Captcha) is working on some photos of the park to use as special cards for birthdays etc. (costed appropriately). She will print the cards and generally get them sorted as she wants a high level of specification. It is a case of watch this space.
- d. Once more the village website has been under attack. It has meant that some of the changes I have made have had to be undone so that the site can be reset at an earlier time and then new login information and passwords sent out again. I hope to be able to update fully next weekend (when John is back from holiday in France).
- e. The notice boards in the park are up to date. (Also I have been pleased with the response to the butterfly count I put in the boards over the summer).
- f. Andy mentioned that we have a board that Forest School could put information on, and we could display it outside during our working parties. – Andy to speak to Linda to see if the kids are interested.

River Soar Catchment Partnership: (Ian) – The current round of funding has just gone in, and the environment agency are looking to allocate funds, but our brook is likely to be a low priority. Ian has also spoken to the lady managing the Fisheries Improvement Fund, but we are low on this list. However, on the positive side, the new I.D.B are much more approachable, so we should be able to develop a good relationship with them.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As part of the Christmas lights switch on, “Physio Needs” plan to do a Santa run (on Nov 24th), including a 1.5km loop through the park. They plan to avoid any heavily mudded areas and keep to the paths as much as possible. All profits go to “The Tomorrow Project” (suicide prevention).

We have a problem with Bamboo along the north of the park adjacent to a garden

NEXT STEPS – Ann to inform the Parish Council of the bamboo issue, to see if they can control it.

The headlands have not been cut as exactly as they should have been. This issue to be carried forward.

Neil found some strange concrete markings. This is to be investigated further

NEXT STEPS - Kev to take photos

The problem with Streetwise driving over areas such as the Oak Meadow flower strip, and bee worlds is still occurring

NEXT STEPS – Ann to raise with the Parish Council.

Issues with the paths and developments with the Trim Trail are to be carried forward

4) FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK
TREASURERS REPORT – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 2/9/18

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. Particular thanks go to The East Leake dog show organisers who, for the second year running gave us a very generous donation - £105. Also Mel's collection box provided a total of £88.

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	£ 507.00

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT

CREDIT

Initial Balance in Bank	£1911.79
Membership Subscriptions [184 members to date]	£854
Donations [Including collection boxes to date]	£471.50
Arboretum Sponsorship	£527

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£3979.29</u>
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DEBIT

M.Hart, Thistlebank Graphics – A5 fliers	£273
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<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£1438.79</u>
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Balance as at 2/9/18 : Total*	£2540.50
General Funds	£2013.50
Arboretum Sponsorship	£527

Due to not getting cheques signed in July the following outstanding payments are due over the next week:

Purchase of 1 off new trolley [Screwfix]- £179.99
Purchase of 1 off new wheelbarrow [Screwfix] –£ 39.96
Associated security equipment - £18.75
6 Off RSPB nest boxes [20% off] – £62.34
6 Off garden shears - £54.52
Overall total – £355.56

Purchase of security chain for trolley etc - £19.55

*Note 1: After the above payments the total available will be: £2165.39,

General Funds: £1638.39, Arboretum: £527

*Note 2 : The bank balance at HSBC differs from FMP accounts by + £31, this is due to Cheque number 100134 which has not cleared.

Andy Denker [Treasurer] 2/9/18

NEXT STEPS – Andy to chase up outstanding British Gypsum payment.

5) FUNDING APPLICATIONS: (Alan) – Carried forward - Looking at funding for an i-pad / laptop to use for Meadow Park publicity (photos of park etc). We discussed what it might be used for, such as data analysis, maintenance of records, maybe school demonstrations, Forest School etc. Alan is considering putting in an application to East Midlands Airport for this.

6) ACTIVITIES UPDATE : (Andy)

The Activity days in July/August covered:

Scheduled – July:

The overhanging branches were cut back, mainly in Stonebridge and the entrances. Litter pick in both the Sheepwash and Kingston brooks. Extra den material was collected for the Forest School

A very good point was raised during the July day by one member – can we provide maps of the park to assist volunteers with identifying the areas of the park.

NEXT STEPS – Andrew to send park map to Ian who will then put this on facebook.

Scheduled – August: there was no activity day in August.

Total hours worked to date - 210

Unscheduled Activity days in July/August covered:

This period was mainly spent on watering the Alder/Downy Birch in the Arboretum. Ragwort was removed in all areas prior to the hay cut. There was a butterfly count prior to the cut.

The Forest School had a day out in the park and the log circle was extended for the new term.

Total hours worked to date – 299.75 AED 2/9/18

Future jobs to do include Clearing around the shrubs along Bateman, tidying the Forest School area, controlling the bamboo, cutting back dogwood, hedgelaying, sorting woodlands along Stonebridge path, scrub cutting in Hall Field.

7) NEXT ACTIVITY DAYS

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

8) NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 9th January, 2019. 7.30pm, Parish Offices.