

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

3rd July 2019

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: John.

Present: Andy, Eric, Ann, Kevin, Kev, Brenda, Alan, Sue, Neil, Ian, Mel, Trevor, Andrew.

2) MINUTES OF THE FMPC MEETING OF MAY 2019 WERE RATIFIED.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Arboretum: (Andy) - All the trees in the Arboretum, with the exception of the Larch, and along 'Frank Kirk Way' including the new additions are doing well.

- The Sessile Oak has come in to leaf and is looking very healthy.
- The Sweet Chestnut seems to be struggling.
- The Larch is however giving cause for concern, whilst the foliage has returned there are a large number of 'dead spots' throughout the tree (if it is diseased this is notifiable)

NEXT STEPS – We would like some wording for the microprop major Oak clone. Kevin to get some agreed wording to then pass on to Andrew for us to do our own notice/ plaque.

Forest School update: (Ann / Andy) – The surviving shrubs are still doing well and will be monitored on their progress.

- Dogwood cuttings for wand production were provided on May20th
- The 6 off wooden poles have been fitted and have come into use during the recent wet period. Many thanks from all staff.
- The only down side in the area – a little bit of vandalism - two brackets on the poles have been bent [now repaired] and the bird box which was placed near the sitting area has been damaged. Now repaired and re fitted. Even worse a large Ash has been completely ring barked and will now have to be monitored for any possible falling branches on the children.
- We discussed general issues of vandalism, including a bird box that had been knocked down with eggs in it, but we remain positive that the Forest School area is well used.

NEXT STEPS – Ann and Ian to do some paddling sessions in the brook for the Lantern Lane kids, on the 8th, 15th or 19th.

Bird box update: (Andy)

–NEXT STEPS – Andy to add the guards to the bird boxes in November. Mel's bird box has been put up, so now we have 17 new boxes and 11 old ones, plus 6 bat boxes.

Publicity / Competitions / Website / Facebook update: (Brenda) – We discussed what to mention in the publicity communications. We decided against mentioning the fires, but to mention the bark stripping vandalism. This can be discussed as criminal activity, but needs to be sensitively worded, and we should ask people to be vigilant. Brenda will also probably mention the outdoor gym, including the costs thereof.

- Brenda will also include the wildflower count when this is available (Keith and Gwen are doing this).
- Neil to send an update on his activities to Brenda.

–NEXT STEPS – Brenda to send out update by the start of August.

Willow bed extension and willow structure: (Mel)

–NEXT STEPS – Willow structure to be re- worked into a basic tunnel shape at the next work party.

Willow weaving: (Mel) – Willow weaving demonstrations and classes to be done next year now.

Bamboo /Bateman fencing: (Andy / Ian) – Ian investigated eradicating the bamboo, with glyphosate or similar. It would involve using contractors and is prohibitively expensive; it could be as much as £10,000. We therefore discussed options and decided to try digging it up in the winter (and potentially incinerating it).

- With regards to the Bateman fencing, Andy has a quote for 40 posts and 400 metres of wire of £243. We all agreed to progress this project out of our own funds.

NEXT STEPS – Andy to also purchase some membrane to put over the bamboo during the winter to inhibit its growth.

– The fencing project will be commenced in the autumn, leaving small “squeeze gaps” to allow people entry. Wheelchair access will still be via Bateman road main entrance as making gaps for wheelchairs would be dangerous due to the slope of the bank.

Meadow Park clothing: (Mel) – High Vis vests have been done (paid for by the Parish Council), and are now being used at the working parties.

NEXT STEPS – Mel to progress the Polo shirts when she gets chance.

Plinth refurbishment: (Alan) – Malcolm Lane’s team will still do this in due course

NEXT STEPS – Carry forward this issue.

Lagoon Field: (Trevor) – The land belongs to Rushcliffe, and the water authority (Severn Trent) has the responsibility for maintaining it. Trevor was concerned that this could scrub over and become like Hall Field. We discussed whether the area should be tidied up or be allowed to scrub over. Andrew stated it is of some interest to us with regards to maintenance due to the potential water run off into the park. We do also need to understand where the Friends responsibility lies with regards to the boundary of this area.

NEXT STEPS – Kevin to send a letter to Paul Phillips to find out where the boundary is.

– Ian will check the Severn Trent asset register.

Rare plants in the park: (Neil) - Neil counted about 6 Southern Marsh Orchids and 14 Common Spotted Orchids flower-spikes over the last few weeks (June 2019) - less than last year, but many may be hidden in other plant growth.

- In Gibson's Field (almost certainly part of what was once known as the 'Hall Meadow')
- There are at least 8 plants of Pepper Saxifrage scattered mainly in the northern half of the field - appears to have survived as a relic population in this ancient hay meadow.
- Neil also noticed what might be a new species for the Park - one Dropwort plant. This might be the only plant of this species left in the whole of East Leake - it used to be common in the Townland Trust fields near the British Gypsum works, before these old pasture fields (on medieval ridge-and-furrow) were sprayed with herbicide and chemically fertilised back in the 1980's.
- Neil also questioned whether our Sessile Oak, is in fact some sort of hybrid.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Grass cutting: (Kev) The cut is scheduled for the end of July / start of August, with the Arboretum not to be cut (request given to the Parish Clerk who is passing it on to Richard Jenks). Trevor questioned the potential fire risk of not cutting the Arboretum, but it was stated that the long grass and flowers helps keep the underlying soil moist. It was also discussed how important uncut area are for invertebrates and hence the food chain in general.

Bulb planting (Mel)

NEXT STEPS – Mel to ask the Brownie group if they would like to help with planting bulbs in the autumn.

Bins: (Neil) – The drivers who are emptying the bins are not keeping to the paths and are driving over the Oak Meadow flower strip in particular. Alan has also already complained about the bins overflowing. Mel also raised the issue of a bin being ripped out on the perimeter of Playfield.

NEXT STEPS – Mel to mention to Parish Office.

4) FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK TREASURERS REPORT – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 3/7/19

Many thanks again to 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 2018 was £2085.82

This is split between: General Funds	£1573.79
and Arboretum Sponsorship	£512.03

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT

CREDIT

Initial Balance in Bank	£2085.82
Membership Subscriptions [to date]	£695
Donations [Including collection boxes]	£537
Arboretum Sponsorship	£280
TOTAL	£3605.82

DEBIT

150 off plug plants [Naturescape]	£84.5
20 off nest box front plates [RSPB]	£53.95
Irrigation Pipes [for new trees]	£89.80
Various brackets/bolts – Forest School posts	£43.40
6 off posts[David Musson Fencing]	£108.52
1000 off wild flower bulbs [Naturescape]pre order	£130
TOTAL	£1210.70

Balance as at 5/7/19 : Total	£2395.12
General Funds	£1904.22
Arboretum Sponsorship	£490.90

Outstanding items that will require payment over the coming weeks are as follows:

Bateman road fencing project – approx £243

Repair and repaint of lecturns – approx £200

Andy Denker [Treasurer] FMP REV 1 - 5/7/19

5) FUNDING APPLICATIONS - : Alan is meeting on the 4th of July with the local improvement scheme. All projects over £10k are now to be reviewed / approved, so the £14, 304 recommendation towards the Meadow Park paths will be reviewed and will be match funded if approved.

6) ACTIVITIES UPDATE: (Andy)

The Activity days in May and June covered:

Scheduled:

Clear areas around shrubs Bateman road, fix 3x bird boxes and 1 bat box in various locations. Fit watering system and posts to Juniper position. Litter pick. June a very wet morning – general cut back of all overhanging branches along paths.

Total hours worked to date - 198

Unscheduled Activity days in May/June covered:

Digging over and adding plants to sculpture border. Forest School area – clear around shrubs, fit posts and supply Dogwood for wands, assist with tarp, inspect damage to ash tree and poles, remove dead tree and cut down damaged tree, remove rubbish and

7) NEXT ACTIVITY DAYS

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

8) NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 4th September 2019. 7.30pm, Parish Offices.