

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

4th September 2019

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: John, Trevor, Kevin, Ian, Paul.

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

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

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Arboretum: (Andy) - The majority of the trees in the Arboretum are still doing well even though various heat waves and lack of rain at times are adding to their stress. The Larch, whilst the foliage has returned there are still a large number of 'dead spots' throughout the tree. Two trees are still giving cause for concern, these are the Downy Birch, which is still not moving on as expected and the Sweet Chestnut which started late and has not improved.

During the hay cut we unfortunately lost the new beech tree + posts. This has now been replaced by ELPC [to be planted later in the year] along with a new post [FMP]

NEXT STEPS (Carried forward) – 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) - Two off 'days in the brook' and a day in the Park event were carried out and as usual enjoyed by all. Ann did a "Stonehenge" day, making willow pens, stone axes etc.

On the down side as per usual, a rather larger bit of vandalism was carried out on the Monday after school break up. Four of the 6 wooden poles which were fitted to assist the fixing of tarps have been pulled out of the ground. Fortunately they were rescued before being used for other purposes and will now hopefully be refitted this week.

NEXT STEPS – Ann doing tree identification on the 30th of Sept and 7th Oct.

– Andy and Conrad to put the poles back in (more securely)

– We may also clear out Electric Avenue as part of a working party.

Bird box update: (Andy)

–**NEXT STEPS – Andy to add the guards to the bird boxes in November.**

Publicity / Competitions / Website / Facebook update: (Brenda) – Brenda showed us the small banner, which we all agreed is excellent, and we will look to use it wherever we can. Brenda also discussed an idea of putting "pressed" grasses for information in the plinths, and also doing an article about what trees are used for from a productive viewpoint.

- The East Leake website is now back up and running.

- Eric questioned how easy it is to find a link to join the FOMP.

NEXT STEPS – Mel to share the joining link on Facebook.

Meadow Park clothing: (Mel)

NEXT STEPS – Mel took a note of requested sizes for the Polo shirts to place an order.

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

NEXT STEPS – Should be done in the next few weeks..

Lagoon Field: (Kev) – the maintenance of the lagoon, is RBC responsibility, and that is under the control of the estates section. The FOMP therefore only have direct responsibility up to the top of the bank of Lagoon field, but will help to clear any encroaching scrub growth as required.

Grass cutting and topping: (Kev) – The farmer responsible for the cutting (Richard Jenks) has asked if any areas already mowed require “topping”. We also discussed whether we should make a record of all of the dates of the main cut. Andrew also mentioned that he had drawn up a plan of the firebreaks, but these have not been adhered to. We plan to leave Oak Meadow strip uncut this year.

NEXT STEPS – Kev to contact The Parish Clerk to confirm that we do not require any “topping” this year.

– **Following our meeting we also had e-mail discussions about the margin cuts for this year.**

It was agreed that this would be done as per the plan after the end of October (Andy)

– **Kev to send a note to the Parish Clerk about following the firebreak plan.**

Gotham Nature Reserve request: (Kev) – I was contacted by Pat Sharpe of Gotham Nature Reserve who has suggested that our two groups might be able to help each other by sharing ideas and news of events. We discussed this and agreed that sharing information about working parties etc is a good idea as long as we can keep things simple. Longer term we might be able to help each other with work parties, but will need to consider such things as joining each other’s groups, insurance, diluting our work force etc.

NEXT STEPS – Kev to discuss this further with the Gotham group.

Fallen trees in brook: (Alan) – This does not come under our responsibility, but the Parish Council will report it to the Trent Valley Drainage board (As at October 2019, this issue is now resolved).

Paths: (Alan) – Work on the paths is to start imminently (October 9th). We discussed where the material scraped from the old paths could be placed (top corner of Play Field, and near to Bateman Road entrance) to be potentially used as “butterfly banks”. We also discussed maybe using some of the excess material for some of the unofficial paths (top of Lagoon Field to Play Field. We will be supplied with surplus material for the new paths (to be used for future repairs) and a space has already been identified for storing this (at the end of the tree tunnel near the arboretum).

NEXT STEPS – Andy to arrange the building of an area for the surplus path material.

– **Andy to sort out the finances with regards to the path funding.**

– **Andy to locate / purchase membrane to be placed under the excess material piles (to prevent grass growing through).**

– **Alan to arrange a date to walk the park with the contractor and agree areas for putting the excess material etc.**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Flower walk: (Ann) – Ann mentioned that she has been asked by 3 people about doing a flower walk.

AGM: (Ann) – Ann mentioned that the Chairman writes a letter to the Parish Council for funding AGM (food and drink).

NEXT STEPS – Kev to mention this to the Chairman.

Willow structure: (Kev) – Kev mentioned that this structure needs to be tidied up (will be done over winter).

New bench: (Andrew) – Andrew and his wife are raising money in order to donate another bench (to be placed in Playfield). It was agreed that FOMP would fund the delivery of the bench.

Bamboo removal: (Brenda) – Brenda mentioned that the lady who has a bamboo problem has a gardener who is trying to eradicate this using heat (an Eco-weed burner). Ann has a similar machine that we could use, and Alan also suggested that we could use acetic acid?

NEXT STEPS – Review what to try in the late autumn.

4) FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK
TREASURERS REPORT – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 4/9/19

There have been no credits/debits since the last statement [rev 1] of 5/7/19.

The good news, with many thanks to Alan, is that the claim for a grant via the Notts. County Council Local improvement Scheme capital funding was successful. This will be an equal amount of funding from Nott's CC and East Leake Parish Council to improve accessibility within the park. The funds at this moment are still going through the allocation process before being transferred to our bank account. The bank has been informed that substantial funding will be en route and to this end extra work has been carried out to enable this and the following BACS transfers to the contractor.

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	<u>£3605.82</u>

DEBIT

No payments have been required during the last period

TOTAL	<u>£1210.70</u>
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Balance as at 4/9/19 : 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 lecterns – approx £200
- Sleepers plus posts for limestone grit surplus – approx £281
- Various components for post repairs - £31.28

Andy Denker [Treasurer] FMP - 4/9/19

5) FUNDING APPLICATIONS - : None outstanding.

6) ACTIVITIES UPDATE: (Andy)

The Activity day in July/August:

Scheduled: [July only]

Cut back of growth in the Sculpture border and on a section of path in Stonebridge. Re model of the willow structure. Litter pick

Total hours worked to date – 227.25

Unscheduled Activity days in July/August covered:

Fit new bat and bird box + check of all other boxes for possible damage. Plant budlea and holly along Bateman rd path. Days in brook and park for forest School. Wild flower survey. Water new trees. Tidy sculpture border.

Total hours worked to date – 242.25 AED 4/9/19

Overall Total hours to date – 469.5

7) NEXT ACTIVITY DAYS

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

Plan is to clear overgrowth around the paths.

Bateman road fencing is planned to be done on ancillary days.

October- plan to do Hall Field (Neil to supervise), and do some clearance around Lagoon Field.

Nov/Dec plan is Stonebridge alleyway hedge laying and more work in Bateman road coppice.

January 2019 plan is to do some hazel coppicing.

8) NEXT MEETING

AGM date is 13th November 7.30pm.