++++++++++ **MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**
15th January 2020

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mel, Ian, Paul.
Present: Andy, Eric, Ann, Kev, Kevin, Brenda, Alan, Sue, Neil, Trevor, Andrew.

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

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS:

Arboretum: (Andy) - The majority of the trees seem to be in a healthy condition at the present time with of course the ongoing worry over the Larch and the Sweet Chestnut. The other main problem at the moment is of course the saturated ground, with the trees on the lower ground sitting in water over the last few months. Only time will tell if any permanent damage has been done.

Forest School update: (Ann / Andy) - The area still looks in a good state and there appears to be no further damage to the structures/trees,(except of course the destruction of the Xmas decorations!!) A further supply of den building material will be required in the near future.

Grass cutting: (Kevin) - Richard Jenks has had a discussion with Kevin about this. We discussed the contrasting issues for cutting at different times from a conservation perspective, but also the need to consider the need of the farmer to cut at a time to maximise the quality of his fodder. We also discussed the issue of bramble growth along the north boundary of the park.
NEXT STEPS – Kevin to tell Richard that we are ok with the grass being cut as agreed in early August, and also to tell Richard that we do not want the Arboretum cutting.

- **Kevin to ask the Parish team if they will cut the brambles. If not, then Kevin to approach Richard to see if he will cut the brambles (Note – This cutting needs to be done as soon as possible, by mid-March latest due to nesting birds).**

Bird box update: (Eric) - Eric has put guards on the 3 bird boxes from the store cupboard, however it is currently not possible to put these up in the park or check the current ones up as the ground is too muddy and wet to use ladders. One box has also fallen off a tree and is not repairable.

Publicity / Competitions / Website / Facebook update: (Brenda) – The notice boards (plinths) are still being updated, but generally the feedback on the content from the general public is extremely positive. Brenda asked if for any contributions for articles (of any size) to include in the plinths, maybe on butterflies, plants, archaeology etc. It was mentioned that the Parish Office and also Peter Foden have information about this that could be used.

It was mentioned that it may be useful to send occasional information to Rushcliffe about what we are doing in the park.
NEXT STEPS – Kevin to send the contact details for Rushcliffe to Brenda.

Plinth refurbishment: (Alan) – This has now been completed.

Butterfly Bank: (Kev) – Kev explained how the bank is to be developed in the top corner of Playfield. The plan is to dig the turf in front of the bank and put down a semi permeable membrane and then put limestone chippings on top. It was suggested that we use a non plastic membrane such as cocoa matting or utilise some old carpet (non plastic).

Gotham Nature Reserve: (Brenda / Kev) – Martin Nunn is our contact for the Gotham group and is keen to exchange ideas. Brenda has been in contact with him, and they want to do a quarterly newsletter. They would like to publicize what our group does and vice-versa. They share a love of nature and arrange nature walks etc.
NEXT STEPS – Brenda to show them what we do and make a link with them, we plan to keep things simple, but something good might come out of this.

Sycamore tree chipping: (Alan) – A sycamore tree in the churchyard is being removed, due to the fact that it is pushing a wall down. The tree is going to be chipped by a local contractor (Leon Flowerdew). Alan has arranged for these chippings to be taken to the bottom corner of Bateman road (next to the small pumping station), where we can then move the chippings to place over the muddy path in the corner.
NEXT STEPS – Alan will send an e-mail out to people who have volunteered to help to advise them of timings.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Russian Vine: (Andy): - Andy mentioned that following our clear out of the Russian Vine
That it is currently impossible to do a bonfire, so he has arranged for Leon Flowerdew to chip this.
NEXT STEPS – Andy to e-mail out to the Committee with regards to when help is required to do this job.

Horse tracks in the park: (Alan) – We discussed as to whether Horses are allowed on the park, but it is clear that they are not and there are signs saying that no motorised vehicles or horses are allowed on the park.
NEXT STEPS – Brenda to put a notice in the plinths about this and the impact on the park.

Strimmer: (Andy) –We have been offered a second hand petrol strimmer from a lady called Ruth. We decided it would be good to take up this offer. The only proviso is that it has to go through the Parish Office Maintenance process and we have someone properly trained to use it. Alan and Eric confirmed that they are trained with regards to this. The Parish Council should be able to provide fuel for it.
NEXT STEPS – Andy to inform Ruth that we would like it and ask for any spare line or fuel containers etc.

Sewerage update: (Alan) – Alan has e-mailed the Environment Agency in November, December and January but as yet has not had a response to the concerns with regards the Pumping Station pollution. We are asking whether the sewerage overflow in the village is a health hazard, and if so should we put up signs warning of the issue. We agreed that whenever an overflow occurs we must phone the Environment Agency hotline. Alan continues to chase this issue up.
NEXT STEPS – Eric has a report saying that this is a health hazard, Eric to send this to Alan.

4) FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK
TREASURERS REPORT – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 15/1/20

The accounts for the year 1st November 2018 to the 31st October 2019 have been ratified by Neil Lambert. My thanks to Neil Lambert for taking on the task of examining the accounts and also again for the membership of FMP, and the wider village community for being generous with their subscriptions and donations.

The balance in the account at the 1st of November 2019 was	£13256.46
This is split between: General Funds	£2037.56
Arboretum Sponsorship	£490.90
Path Accessibility Fund	£10728.00

The remainder of the grant from NCC - £3576 and ELPC - £14304 has been received, which has allowed the payment to be completed.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT

CREDIT

Initial Balance in Bank		£13256.46
Membership Subscriptions [to date]		£308
Donations		£40
Grants – NCC and ELPC		£17880
	TOTAL	£31484.46

DEBIT

Path Contractor – CSS Ltd		£28608
ELPC – Broxap Bench + delivery		£407
ELPC – Mussons – Fencing and Sleepers		£478.77
	TOTAL	£29493.77

Balance as at 15/1/20 : Total		£1990.69
	General Funds	£1499.79
	Arboretum Sponsorship	£490.90

Outstanding items that require payment are as follows:

Wine/food for AGM	£42.60
ELPC – photocopying:	£16.60
Heavy duty weed control	£55
3x bags of postcrete for bench	£23.67

Andy Denker [Treasurer] FMP 15/1/20

5) FUNDING APPLICATIONS – (Alan) We do not have any requirements for funding at the moment, but we do have contacts with the County Council and will approach them for more funds if we need it, for example we may need some more Breedon gravel for the paths. We could also potentially approach Severn Trent for help with this?

6) ACTIVITIES UPDATE: (Andy)

The Activity days in November, December and January covered:

Scheduled:

Path repairs after floods [Arboretum], clean up of both path arisings [Bateman/Playfield], cut back of Russian vine[Bateman]+removal of roots, tidy up of willow structure, plant remaining bulbs, litter pick.

Total hours worked to date – 79.5

Unscheduled Activity days in December/January covered:

General inspection of park, fit new bench in Playfield, improve drainage in corner of Playfield

Total hours worked to date – 11.25

Overall Total – 90.75 AED 15/1/20

7) NEXT ACTIVITY DAYS

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

Next working day to include hazel coppicing and the butterfly bank (08/02/20) Bateman road fencing is planned to be done on ancillary days

8) NEXT MEETING DATES (2020)

- March 4th
- May 6th
- July 1st
- Sept 2nd