FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4TH 2026 **PARISH OFFICE 7.30 P.M.**

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. RATIFICATION OF JANUARY 2026 MINUTES

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS

- Updates on Arboretum and Forest School. Andy
- Update on FOMP information on the village website. Mary
- Severn Trent pipeline latest. Kev
- Brook maintenance plan 2026/ 2027 Kev / Ian
- Cemex donation of 20 tonnes of aggregate. Kev / Andy

- Any Other Business. All

4. TREASURERS REPORT Andy

5. ACTIVITIES UPDATE
   - Work Party updates. Andy
   - Next Activities planned…. Andy / All

Minutes from the meeting are on the next page

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

4th March 2026

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Carol, Brenda.
Present: Andy, Kev, Mel, Alan, Andrew, Mary, Kevin, Ian, Neil, Diana, Conrad, Paul.

2) MINUTES OF THE FMPC MEETING OF JAN 2026 WERE RATIFIED

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PLUS DEVELOPMENTS

i) Updates on Arboretum and Forest School (Andy)

ARBORETUM / STONEBRIDGE:

We have again had some rather wet weather over the last few weeks, managing to miss the first flood but not the second [over the recent weekend]. I have not had the opportunity to check on either the Arboretum or Stonebridge but will do so over the coming week.

With regard to the replacement cherry tree for Stonebridge, this is now in full bud in my garden so will now not be moved until autumn.

Update from Andy 29/03/26 - Arboretum and Stonebridge - Both areas have now been surveyed with the Arboretum trees all showing signs of life. In the Stonebridge border, with the exception of the damaged Rowan showing signs of revival and confirmation that the two Alders are both dead there is a second Rowan now also dead - all the remaining trees are all healthy. We are looking at clearing the area of the bramble in the next few weeks.

FOREST SCHOOL:

Lantern Lane have been using the area up until the half term break but will be staying at school until the 16th March. I will be liaising with LL with regard to access though the Park with ST commencing work on the 2nd March. Brookside will possibly be starting their sessions this week, the only problem being Bateman Rd gate with ST gaining access for their machinery.

As usual we will be liaising and assisting as necessary.

Discussions are still ongoing with another interested party who wishes to start after Easter in the area.

Update from Andy 29/03/26 There is still no confirmation that the further interested party will be using the area after Easter, I will try to make contact. However we have another interested party who wishes to use the area in June for 4 weeks on a Thursday afternoon, myself and Mary will be meeting the people involved on Tuesday 28th of April to discuss their requirements.

ii) FOMP information on the village website (Mary)

- Mary demonstrated the changes to the website and the committee were happy with the final edits. Mel spotted one small error which has now been corrected.

iii) Severn Trent pipeline latest (Kev / Andy)

- Kev has been updating the committee via e-mail.

-At this stage the compound on the Recreation Ground is being set up.

- Work has started installing the easement boundary fencing, this will remain until next year and potentially longer.

- Footpaths will be kept open through the easement, with the exception of the railway tunnel which will be closed at some stage for 2 weeks.

- Pipe laying will start at the tunnel end and laid towards the Pumping Station.
- We expressed concern in the meeting that everything was starting to happen before everything has been agreed, and whether permissions have been sought for closing the tunnel footpath etc.
- Discussions on protecting the grassland are ongoing. **Update -** following discussions between Paul, RammSanderson and Mark Woods (County plant recorder), the topsoil (including the turf) will now be laid back down on top as the work finishes. This will also be sown with green hay from the rest of Gibson's Field ideally.
- David Moore is our contact at Forkers.
- No CEMP has been received yet.
- No BNG baseline has been received yet, Paul continues to ask for this. ST have an internal target of 15%, and we are pretty confident that they will deliver this to maintain their reputation, but if not we can challenge the process. Ian mentioned that he suspects the baseline will be underestimated as the surveys have been done at the wrong time. Paul mentioned that ST have asked us to provide records for them.
Next Steps – Kev to speak to Sarah Postlethwaite (Local Ecologist) to see if we can access the data that was used when we we awarded LWS status.
- Paul also stated that the park could achieve the status of "Local Nature Reserve", as he has the paperwork to do this.
Next Steps – Kev to also speak to Sarah with regards to this, to see if we can garner the information required.
- Ian mentioned that he knows the condition of the brook at the moment from a baseline perspective, and due to the work being within 9 metres of the brook we would expect to see watercourse units with regards to BNG. Paul mentioned that his preference would be restoration to the bed of the brook.
- No information received about a potential area for a pond yet.
- As this is not a statutory project we could suggest to have certain things done, we have a degree of flexibility with this in terms of BNG contributions to the park, such as sorting out areas of our woodland etc.
- Work may take 2-3 months at least. **Update** – work is currently being delayed due to nesting birds in the hedgerows.
- It was suggested that ELPC mowing of paths should be narrower if possible to protect more of the grassland.
Next Steps. Kev to speak to ELPC to see what can be done.

iv) Brook maintenance plan (Kev / Ian)
- Following Jason Billin's e-mail about the work that the TVIDB have done upstream we agreed to put together a plan to tackle our stretch of the Kingston Brook. Maintaining this stretch for the benefit of the watercourse is included in our 5 year plan, and we have previously recognised that we need to let more light in and clear overgrowth in certain areas.
- Paul has stated that clearance may not be the best ecological option, as having more natural material in the brook will provide a greater diversity of habitat.
- Ian is our expert in watercourses and stated that we need to reach a balance with the TVIDB request, one that is best for the park (which is a natural floodplain), and we need to keep in mind habitat and diversity.
Next Steps – Ian to walk the brook with Kev and Andy, and a plan will be put together. Kev to send plan to Jason.

v) Cemex donation of 20 tonnes of aggregate
- ELPC have organised a company called Kenway to move the gravel (when delivered) to Hall Field, ELPC is kindly paying the £225 fee for this.
Update from Andy 29/03/26- Kenway contractors - Cemex donation: The fee for this is now £450
Next Steps – Kev to inform Jamie Ewing at Cemex about this, and as soon as the ground is dry to progress this project we will co-ordinate this with Cemex and Kenway (Cemex have asked for at least 1 weeks prior notice).

vi) Any Other Business

Trevor's Legacy

- Ideas with regards to how to use the money bequeathed to FOMP were discussed. Ideas included some sort of notice board on information regarding the history of the park, as well as the planting of bulbs (snowdrops, daffodils, Bluebells etc).

Next Steps – to be discussed further at our next meeting

RBC tree work

- It was mentioned that the tree work identified by RBC had not commenced yet, Paul stated that the Streetwise tree team are very stretched at the moment, and behind on their work.

Bateman Field blackthorn scrub work

- This area is now mutch improved, as the area previously taken over by blackthorn scrub has been largely cleared, and a dead hedge has been created. The dead hedge does contain some living plants and trees, and additional small trees and wildflowers continue to be planted along it. Going forward we will allow some of the blackthorn adjacent to the hedge to grow back, bit this will be controlled as a wildlife buffer zone, extending about 1 metre from the hedge. Overall the biodiversity of this area will be significantly improved following this work.

Update – Neil has kindly cut away some of the remaining stumps. We also had 2 separate work parties to remove some wildflower turf from the Oak Meadow wildflower strip (containing mainly cowslips and meadow cranesbill) into the cleared Bateman Field area. Kev and Andy also sowed some wildflower seeds on the 27th of March, and we plan to do another work party to sow some more in the coming week.

Update from Andy 29/03/26- Bateman Field - A contractor has now been hired to shred the blackthorn brash and also remove the fallen Ash bough along with two further trees in the hedge line - this work will be carried out at the end of April.

4) TREASURER'S REPORT (Andy)

ACCOUNTS:

We are in a very healthy state with balance in the Bank as at November 1st being:
£1558.33 – Total Balance
£1142.18– General Funds
£416.15 – Arboretum
Bank charges to date: £3.44
We have an addition of membership renewals/new members of £366 along with donations of £423, a total of £789
The major addition is of course the legacy from the estate of Trevor Jones of £1000. This will be ring fenced and used for a lasting memory of Trevor. We have a few ideas mentioned already i.e. more bulb planting and a display board for the history of the park but this is going to be an ongoing discussion.
Debits – payment of £78.50 for the purchase of wild flower plants for Bateman Field hedge

The present balance as at 1/3/26 less the legacy:
£1881.39– Total Balance
£1465.24 – General Funds
£416.15 - Arboretum

AED 1/3/26

5) ACTIVITIES UPDATE (Andy)

WORK PARTY

A major thank you again to all our regular Volunteers, along with our friends from BG, who after talking to my contact at BG will be starting again in February. [Unfortunately cancelled due to bad weather] We now have a second offer from BG for another group to assist us at the beginning of April.

Scheduled:

The work in January and February was a continuation of the winter work in the Bateman Field border removing the encroaching blackthorn. This has now been completed with many of the smaller stumps removed with tree poppers. The clearance has been done up to the markers for ST to dig their trench and erect the exclusion fence. The outstanding work will be the removal of the larger stumps and remaining brash. The dead hedge has also been completed up to this point and will be added to on ST completion.
Note: a contractor will be used for the remaining stumps + brash – still ongoing.

Hours worked to date: 148.25

Unscheduled activity:

Wild flower survey, bird survey, work on the Bateman Field border, liaise with LL, planting wild flowers and honeysuckle BF, spread wood chippings along Bateman rd path forest school area, tidy up forest school area.

Hours worked to date: 193.5

Total Hours to date: 341.75

Extra Work Party days – March

Further work on the Bateman Field border will be carried out in March and other days will be fixed in future weeks with completion of the winter work in Little Meadow and Nixon Walk access for the larger farm machinery.

Next Meeting Date - Weds May 6th 2026, 7.30pm.