
Friends of Priory Fields

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2018

Present: Ian Read, Sandy Sinclair, John Bishop, Dave Oxley-Goodey, Den Harvey, Malcolm Whipp, Linden Rosam

1. Apologies: None
2. Minutes of last meeting: Proposed by Malcolm Whipp and Seconded by Dave Oxley-Goodey
3. Report on the AGM: There are now only 2 officers – Chairperson and Secretary. Jo Britter has expressed an interest in taking on the Treasurer role but this is not yet confirmed, therefore John Bishop will continue as Treasurer for the time being. Our Parish Council representative will be Sandy Sinclair (sandy.sinclair2@btinternet.com)
4. Working Party Report:
 - a. Recent problems with both mowers have been fixed by Malcolm and Dave without incurring too much cost. There is still an issue with possibly the air filter on one of the mowers so will see if Nick Rosam can help pinpoint the issue.
 - b. Field inspection reports were asked for by the Parish Council, initially weekly then fortnightly. However, there is very rarely anything to report because issues are usually reported to one or other committee member as soon as they are discovered by anyone using the fields. Also, several of the committee members are walking the fields on a daily basis and problems are quickly rectified. After discussion it was agreed that Sandy would confirm with the Parish Council whether these reports were required as regularly. It was suggested that perhaps we could keep a log book to enter issues raised and their resolution.
5. Finance:
 - a. Current signatories are John Bishop, Linden Rosam and Dave Oxley Goody. The treasurer would also be added when appointed. Pam to be removed as a signatory.
 - b. Donations:
 - i. An anonymous donation has been received in the sum of £200 by a visitor to the fields who was really impressed with the area.
 - ii. A lady has asked if she can take exercise groups on the fields, probably adults during the week and kids in school holidays. SS to check with Parish Council because she will most likely use the sports fields. Further information perhaps required. However, the lady has donated £10 to advertise in our notice board.
 - iii. See note about £60 donation for quiz night below.
 - c. Quiz Night:

- i. A notice to be put in the noticeboard thanking all who attended the quiz and those who donated raffle prizes (Dave). The notice also to go on the Facebook page (LR).
 - ii. £60 in donations was received from people who would have attended the quiz night but couldn't on this occasion.
 - iii. We paid the £20 for hire of the school hall that evening and had a contra deal with the Parish Council for the cost of the village hall by cutting the hedging along both paths to the hall.
 - iv. Next quiz night to be held in March or April 2019 agreed by all.
 - d. All agreed that the Xmas raffle should go ahead again this year.
 - e. It was unanimously agreed that we would write to Brian Underwood to thank him for his many years as our Auditor (Dave) , thanks would also appear in the next In Touch magazine (Dave) and Ian will source a suitable gift for Brian – check with JB re wine.
6. Working Party:
- a. last weekend the working party cut the hedges by the car park; cut grass and strimmed; turned over the bench by the stream because the top side had become a bit rough and the underside was in better condition; nettles were flailed in both water meadows and the arch area was cut. Unfortunately Malcolm Bottomly is currently in hospital (he and his wife usually cut inside the arch enclosure) and we wish him well.
 - b. Hay Cut: Dave will follow up regarding timing of the hay cut as our preference would be to have it cut in early July this year.
 - c. The dog poo bin in the car park has been fixed.
7. Field Projects:
- a. The Green Flag inspector came and had no negative comments at the time. We have to wait until July for the results.
 - b. The Essex Field Group visited the fields on 19th May. They are experts in various flora and fauna and are surveying the whole of Essex one km square at a time. Priory Fields is within one square. We await an email with their findings.
8. PC Issues: There is a dead tree by the front gate which the Parish Council will deal with.
9. Publicity: Dave will write an article for InTouch magazine thanking people for attending the quiz night; an update on management activities on the fields; thanks to Brian for his years as auditor; thanks to our anonymous benefactor for their donation of £200 plus thanks for other donations received.
10. AOB:
- a. Dave: thoughts about needing a “slippery bridge” sign at each end of the bridge. This was agreed and Ian will organise 2 signs.
 - b. SS: Sandy asked who was the person who did the talk at our AGM. It was Emma Ormond. Sandy volunteered to speak with the headmistress at Priory Primary with a view to organising talks at the school in the hopes that the children would pass information onto their parents and from that some parents might be tempted to volunteer their skills. This will not progress until she is back from her holiday mid July.
11. As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.
12. Next meeting is 12 July – Sandy and Linden both gave their apologies for the next meeting.

13. Signed: Ian Read, Chairman.....