
Friends of Priory Fields

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th August 2018

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

1. Apologies: Julie and Jo
2. Minutes of last meeting: Proposed by Den Harvey and Seconded by Malcolm Whipp
3. Chairman's Report:
 - a. It's rather worrying that so many cigarette ends have been found recently around the benches, especially with the fields being so dry and there is a real risk of fire should these be discarded inappropriately.
 - b. It was noted that the ripening apples from most of the more mature apple trees all disappeared overnight even though they really will not be ready until autumn.
 - c. Two memorial trees are not looking too healthy at present so will need to keep an eye on them and perhaps some rain will help.
 - d. The "slippery when wet" signs have been attached to both sides of the bridge.
 - e. MW has charged the battery on the Westwood mower and hopes that the issue is now resolved.
 - f. IR visited "Canon's Ashby" in Northants, which is a large Tudor manor house containing remnants of an historic Augustinian priory of similar size to Bicknacre that used to house 13 monks. It had been noted by experts that our priory must have been quite small because it only housed 15 monks but that may not be strictly true.
 - g. Ben Little has taken some pictures of our Priory from a drone when the weather was very dry and has posted them on Facebook. ACTION: Sandy will pass Ben Little's phone no to Ian who can then ask if we can post the pictures on our page and website.
 - h. Open Spaces have asked if we would like to list/designate ourselves as an open space. Since the fee is £45 pa it was unanimously decided that we would not spend the money at this time. ACTION: Sandy will pass our decision back to PC.
4. Finance Report:
 - a. We currently have the following balances... Current a/c £1788.99; Deposit £8694.44; Cash £70.35.
 - b. Dave OG is buying timber for the bridge repairs and MW buying fuel so these amounts to come off.
 - c. Signatories: Jo is being added as a signatory; IR has so far completed 2 forms but nothing happened as yet so he will persevere although it is thought he is a signatory. He has not yet received any information from the bank or the card machine.
5. Working Party Report:

- a. Last Working Party: the orchard was watered, a log was moved, a large branch pulled down and tidying up was done.
 - b. Next Working Party: will replace the oak sleepers on the bench by the old bridge and 3 on the main bridge. The little sign under the Priory sign has rotted, Dave will replace it. Dave has taken the decent logs and those left are rotten. He will take the rest of the logs when he brings the sleepers over. The ivy and nightshade on our side of school fence will be trimmed. The Ted Saville bench is leaning and needs releveling. The hedge from the road needs a trim and will be done in the September working party.
6. Fund Raising
- a. Xmas raffle tickets need printing and will cost £30 approx. Action IR
 - b. We will approach Kelly's Turkeys and Paul Bailey re raffle prizes.
 - c. Need to ask if the shop will sell raffle tickets again. Action JB
 - d. Quiz Night: Ian and Gill are happy to run the next one and will come to our December meeting to discuss.
7. Field Projects:
- a. Photos have been sent to Dave from the photographic group. We are allowed to use them and do not need to credit the group.
 - b. On 23rd the Essex Field club are visiting to see the flora and fauna again. Dave will meet and greet and hand over a map then leave them to wander at their leisure.
8. PC Issues:
- a. 2 people have approached us wanting to use the fields for a party. However this needs to go through PC for approval together with appropriate health and safety and insurance. One party did not happen and it's likely the other may not either.
 - b. The lady doing the exercise classes has not been back. Action: Dave to contact her in a couple of weeks. [Update: at time of writing she was seen on the football field by the school by LR doing an exercise class and her adverts for the classes are displayed in the new Polish me Pretty shop]
 - c. It was unanimously agreed that we would keep an Incident Book instead of sending the weekly report to The PC. Action: Dave to buy and start the book.
 - d. Dave sent an email to KK regarding access to the CCTV. One of us needs permission to view CCTV footage in case of need. Action: Sandy will find out where the equipment is and what access permission is required.
 - e. Tree Survey has been authorized. Action: Sandy to find out more.
9. Publicity:
- a. An article is to go into the InTouch magazine, the Essex Chronicle and The Journal about the Green Flag Award. Action: DOG
 - b. Also on the Facebook page. Action LR
 - c. Also to put a general report in the PC Magazine. Action DOG
10. AOB:
- a. LR asked if she could put a plaque somewhere on the fields for Scooby. It was agreed.

- b. Sandy spoke about being a liaison for us to the Priory School. Liz will help her make contact with Mrs Shea who is most likely to be supportive. Dave knows Mrs Osbourne who is a governor and will ask her. Action: SS and DOG
- c. Living landscapes is now finishing because Emma is no longer able to do it.
- d. IR asked about Watch, the childrens branch of EWT. They still exist but are at visitor centres like Hanningfield Reservoir.
- e. JB said we'd had a letter from Brian Underwood thanking us for our gift.
- f. BMVH are having a charity coffee morning on 21st September in aid of a wearable heart monitor for our GP surgery so it would be appreciated if we can attend.
- g. Den mentioned an open day for heritage places, would we be willing to do one about the priory arch? It's called Heritage Open Days – see The City Times. There was some interest that we might do one next year.
- h. Working party this coming weekend.

11. As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

12. Next meeting is Thursday 13th September 2018

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