
Friends of Priory Fields

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2018

Present: Ian Read, John Bishop, Den Harvey, Malcolm Whipp, Linden Rosam, Nick Rosam, Julie Norman and Sandy Sinclair

1. Apologies: Dave Oxley-Goody, Jo Britter
2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:
 - a. Proposed by John Bishop and Seconded by Malcolm Whipp
3. Chairman's Report:
 - a. Many thanks to Den for organising the Christmas dinner.
 - b. The quiz night is booked for 22 March and Gill Pessel has volunteered to organize it. An advert will be put in InTouch but the Parish Newsletter will probably be too late. The village hall is booked and DOG is organizing the school hall.
 - c. Thanks to Dave for his articles in InTouch and Parish Newsletter, they were very good.
 - d. Our Green Flag application was accepted and a judge will do a "mystery visit" at some point.
 - e. NR said he thought it might be a good idea for us to have a flag pole for our green flag as it makes it much more noticeable. IR said he would look into it.
4. Finance Report:
 - The raffle raised £672 less £36 for printing the raffle tickets. The licence was £20 and Julie spent £25 for prizes, most of the prizes were donated.
 - JoB asked if anyone has any old financial documents as she is trying to get everything together.
5. Working Party Report: Any ideas for projects in 2019...
 - Den asked that use of the path to the sides of the water meadows be used more.
 - LR asked if perhaps we can look into installing disabled pathing around the fields and will look into grants for this.
 - NR asked if the dips near the old Oak tree could have some hardcore laid so they are not so muddy and slippery.
 - KK can be asked re grants as she has a lot of information and knowledge.
 - NR reported that he had made a jig for the dog tags to be fitted to the bench. LR will get a dog tag for Scooby so it can be tried out.
6. Fund Raising:
 - Raffle:
 - JoB delivered prizes to those who were not at the raffle and reported that people were delighted to have won. She said that feedback is for more prizes rather than big prizes specifically.
 - Perhaps also we could have more prizes suitable for kids of varying ages next time, particularly for primary age since they often persuade the parents to buy tickets and they were keen to stick around for prize giving.

- Interestingly one winner lives in Gt Baddow but always brings her dog to the Fields for walking.
- Next year the carols will most likely be back at the tree with food and drink in the school hall. The school cook does all the catering.
- We could perhaps be better organized to sell tickets at the event next year as we did sell a load and could most likely have sold more if we had a separate/obvious table.
- We need to let the City Council know how much we raised on the raffle re the licence, can be done online.

7. Field Projects:

- We had a brief visit from some 10-12 people from U3A in Gt Baddow on 21 November 2018 and Dave gave some of them a lift to the Arch since it was too far for them to walk. They bought a few raffle tickets and Dave gave a brief talk then they went to White Elm for lunch. They enjoyed their visit.
- Mower: NR reported that the parts had arrived yesterday so he was expecting to put it all back together again this coming weekend.

8. PC Issues:

- Play in the Park is on Thursday 18th April 2019. KK has asked if we would put on some sort of event for a group of children as in previous years – usually a hunt of some kind. JoB said she would help out to be confirmed. All agreed we could do this.
- Field Inspections: It has been agreed with the Parish Council that we can keep a report sheet and send it to them (PC) once a month - required for insurance purposes.
- Parking on Playing Fields: After some discussion it was agreed that we need to see the plan before we can even comment on this. JB will follow up. Our main concerns were use by travellers if gates not locked; access to the fields by vehicles from the parking area – it was suggested that it might be better if the parking was at the lower end of the football field near the storage containers, if possible. SS will speak with the Parish in this regard.
- Tree Works: No news re tree works on the fields. SS will enquire.

9. Publicity:

- As mentioned in Chair Report, thanks to Dave for his article in both local magazines.
- Quiz night publicity already discussed.

10. AOB:

- JN showed us the Christmas cards she has prepared for sending on behalf of the committee.
- JoB mentioned that there is some information our signatories need to confirm for the bank, although there is some confusion regarding whether it's just signatories or whether it's for the whole committee. IR and JB will put heads together about this asap.

11. As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

12. Next meeting is Thursday 10th January 2019 at 7.30 pm

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