

Friends of Priory Fields, Committee meeting 11th April 2019

Present,

Ian, John, Julie, Malcolm, Den, Sandy, June, Dave, and guest Sarah Wilson-Frost.

1/ Apologies Linden & Jo

Sarah who is in the 3rd year of a Horticultural course at Hyde Hall with the RHS gave us a resume on the pruning of our fruit trees, she has already started the work and will continue during our work party on the W/E 13th/14th. She is happy to continue maintenance as required. Thanks Sarah.

2/ Minutes were read and agreed, most matters arising are dealt within the agenda. We are awaiting a request for an article for the Focus magazine. Malcolm has made enquiries about an extended hedge trimmer but it was agreed that as we only use one rarely we would hire if required.

3/ AGM date is 3rd June with a speaker from the Beekeepers Association. Dave to supply screen and have use of the PC projector. Julie to supply coffee/tea and biscuits. Dave to bring wine. We will have a stand at the Parish Assembly 24th May.

4/ Finance, Jo sent out a report with details of the profit raised on the quiz night. Den gave a cheque for a donation of £100 received from his old neighbour David Holmes who attended Marsha's funeral. David used to run on the fields and appreciated the work we do. He has now moved to Salisbury. Dave to send a Thank you letter. Dave put in expenses for various items and showed the new First aid kit. We agreed the adjusted valuation and additions of equipment for insurance purposes.

5/ During the last work party we cut the hedge between the sports field and the East Meadow. The next work party will concentrate on trimming hedges along path to the Village Hall. Spreading the last of the crushed concrete on wet paths. Remove fallen tree in the East Water Meadow. It was decided to also cut the grass in the Arch compound as we don't know the situation with the Bottomleys being able to do this at present. We will also work out the size of the flagpole required for the Green Flag.

6/Fund raising. Gill & Ian Pessell who organised our quiz night had received enquiries about maybe having another quiz about September. After discussion it was agreed to only have one per year as September is getting close to our Xmas raffle and it was thought that chasing people for raffle prizes 2 months apart was not ideal. There was some discussion about whether we should revert to the original quizmaster in future.

7/ Field Projects. Ian told us about the recent visit by the Essex Wildlife Trust with John Summerfield. It had been suggested we reduce width of the mown paths, leave some corners wild and restrict planting of wild flowers etc. Play in the Park 18th April , Jo is organising the Easter Egg Trail but will not be available on the day. Ian, Dave, John & Julie will attend. Council to supply eggs as prizes. It was suggested by Julie that another Bat walk could be organised? Dave to contact Bat group. Julie suggested it would be nice to have a bench nearer the car park. This isn't within our boundaries so the PC. will look into it.

Heritage open days, it was decided not to do Sundays due to parking problems, the football club don't get fixtures until 2nd Sept so best to do a weekday and a Saturday. Dave to look into it.

8/ PC issues Gary Blackshaw [Parish Councillor]and his wife Jo want to get kids more involved on the fields. Suggest they contact their next door neighbour Lyn Osborne who is Chair of Governors at Priory School to pressure school to do more?

9/ Publicity and news. Something may be done about the orchard for the Focus magazine when they require it. Linden to look into problems with Contact Us page on website.

10/ None, as most items came up earlier

11/ Date of next meeting Thurs 9th May 2019