

Minutes of the Friends of Priory Fields Committee meeting Thurs 10th Sept 2020

Present Ian Read [Chairman] Dave Oxley-Goody [Sec] Den Harvey, Julie Norman

1/ Apologies, Malcolm Whipp, Linden & Nick Rosam, Jo Britter, Sandy Sinclair

2/ Minutes read and accepted, as the last meeting was 12th March, no one could think of any matters arising

3/ Chairmans Report, Ian suggested contacting Explore Essex website as a means of publicising the fields. Dave suggested maybe English Heritage re bridge grants, Dave to explore possibilities. Dave was thanked by Ian for work done during lockdown.

4/ Finance, Jo had sent in a copy of accounts. Approx £1,800 so far donated to the bridge appeal via Just Giving and personal cheques/cash.

5/ Working Parties, during the lockdowns basic work like mowing, watering, and strimming was accomplished by Dave, John Summerford and Den as this work could be done on a lone basis with no worry about distancing. Malcolm replaced the belts on the Husqvarna mower. Our first work party since March was on 8th/9th Aug and we fitted 4 new sleepers on the footbridge and replaced the sleepers on the bench in the Memorial Tree area and watered Orchard. We were pleased to welcome a new volunteer, Stuart Gerrish.

Next work party 12th/13th Sept, repair vandalised bench in West Meadow, with 4 bags of postcrete ground spikes, rebar and chain. Fit non slip treads on footbridge, clear fallen branch from tree above West Bridge and install a new Dog Waste storage bin [supplied by PC] + various small jobs.

6/ Finance, It was decided due to Covid uncertainty the Quiz Night and Xmas Raffle to be put on hold. It was thought that as we are concentrating on finance for the bridge it would be difficult to ask for raffle donations as most of the people who have donated to the bridge fund would be the same people who would buy raffle tickets. Adverts for the Just Giving site and other donations for the bridge to go into the Parish Newsletter, In Touch and Contact magazines with accompanying articles. We are very grateful for the support so far.

7/ Field Projects, covered already, obviously the Bridge replacement and next year bluebell bulbs to be planted in woodland in West Water Meadow. Ian to design an information board for the Moor Hall Lane entrance. At present only signs saying what you can and can't do at that entrance. Dave and Den to water orchard probably for last time prior to Autumn.

8/ PC Matters, Ian and Dave had a meeting with June/Karen at the new PC office on 2nd Sept. The PC are willing [subject to agreement] to help with the bridge cost up to a max of £7k this would be in next year's precept to be agreed in November. As the work would not be able to be done until late Spring/Summer, probably new quotes required.

9/ Publicity/News Items, As said above, articles mainly re. bridge repair to go into all local magazines.

10/ A.O.B. Den suggested a sign saying hidden wildlife cameras in use could have some effect on vandalism, Ian to draw up a sign to be affixed near the picnic area.

11/ Date of next meeting, Who knows? Due to current Covid situation a date cannot be set. Members will be notified once the situation settles down.

Dave Oxley-Goody