

Minutes of Friends of Priory Fields committee meeting
7th July 2022

Present. Nick, Ian, Malcolm, Den, Angelina, Sandy, Dave, Julie, Trevor, Jo, Mary.

Apologies. All present

Minutes. Read and agreed

Chairman's report. Hay cut to begin on 8th July.

Green Flag winners to be announced on 11th July but results cannot be publicised until 26th July. Ian suggested we have photo taken of committee members with flag at the start of the next meeting if we are successful.

Finance. Jo presented our latest accounts, current account - £1026.79, deposit account £9634.17 and cash in hand £570.15.

It was suggested that we look for grants with the intention of renewing our mower. Nick and Malcolm are concerned that if our present mower should go wrong again it will not be repairable. The Essex Community Initiative Fund has been recently launched and Tesco's also give funding to community good causes.

Working party. The last working party was general maintenance such as clearing round the trees by The Compasses and mowing the paths. The next working party will be building a weir by Priory Bridge as the water level in the stream is low and it is hoped that building a weir will help to raise the water level. Dave has filled the bowser with water to water the trees and the fields also need to be checked for giant hogweed. The wild flowers are spreading naturally which is a good sign.

Events. Nothing new to report.

Field projects. There are 51 Jubilee trees that have been bought so far, 1 for Dr Sai Sankar and 11 people have registered interest who are to be contacted by Jo. This makes a total of 63 and any extra needed to make up to 70 will be from committee members.

It is being considered if we should buy or hire a post hole borer when the trees need to be planted and stakes and guards need to be priced up also. There were discussions as to the best way to plant so many trees especially as so many donors wish to plant them themselves.

PC matters. The Parish council have queried when the next arch survey is due. We need to check when the last one was done and will let Mary know.

Publicity and news items. The AGM report was included in Parish magazine.

We would like to thank Rowland Brown for all his help with so many things regarding the fields and the help he provides also helps us financially.

The RoSPA report sent to us by Karen included the fields but it should only be a report on playground areas and that does not involve Priory Fields. It was noted that the bridge has some worn planks but these are regularly checked by us and replaced where necessary. We have also noted that there are some rabbit holes near the entrance that need to be dealt with. We have reason to understand that people are confusing the football fields with Priory Fields so Mary is going to ask the Parish Council if the football fields can be renamed Bicknacre sports fields.

Angelina agreed to design signs showing the new bridge names.

Any other business. Sandy has written an advertisement to place in local press and social media for more committee members.

Date of next meeting. Thursday 11th August.