

Minutes of Friends of Priory Fields committee meeting
10th July 2025

Present. Ian Read, Dave Oxley-Goody, Den Harvey, Julie Norman, Trevor May, Jo Britter, Val Dawes, Nick Rosam and Stanley Weiss.

Apologies for absence. Sandy Sinclair, Steve Bates and Malcolm Whipp

Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising. Error on finance - £71.50 moved from cash in hand (not deposit account) to deposit account.

Finance. Jo presented the accounts. Current account - £500.00, deposit account - £10,192.19 and cash in hand - £100.00. The total funds are £10,792.19. Expenditure was fuel - £24.00 and tools/maintenance £55.92. Income - none.

Field projects. Sandy has given a detailed report (which is attached) of the grants we are applying for, for the bridge. We are also waiting to hear from The Rural England Prosperity Fund. The lottery funding we hope to hear from in early August. We are planning to plant wild flowers in an area near the arch possibly including heather. We hope to discuss with Adrian who attended our AGM and is an expert on bumble bees, for advice on the planting.

Working party. The last working party we continued with the mowing and flailing and removed the fence into the new field. Also had bonfire. This working party will need to water the trees with the bowser, collect large bricks, stones and general debris from new field. We hope to have help from the scouts with this. The dog waste bin needs to be put back up between the football and West Meadow.

Events. The AGM went extremely well with over thirty attendees. It was suggested we have a low key AGM next year, possibly early June and have a separate public meeting with a speaker and discussion as that proved so popular.

P.C. Matters. The PC representative was not present.

Publicity and news items. The website is failing and badly needs updating. Need to look into Instagram as well as Facebook. Focus is not publishing our reports and the parish magazine is not frequent enough.

Any other business. Green flag to be put up from 15th July. We had a very good report. Tawny owlets in nesting box in Memorial Field, hope to obtain photos for website. The Westfield mower has been repaired and the Husqvarna could be serviced at the same place. Waiting to hear about hay cut.

Date of next meeting. Thursday 7th August 2025.

Friends of Priory Fields – Grant Applications

Asda Foundation - Local Community Spaces Fund is split in 2 halves

- Indoor = not relevant to FOPF needs
- Outdoor = Window closed in March 2025. This is the first year they have introduced this grant which will be reviewed later this year and decided if it will be run again next year.

Co-op - Local Community Fund £5,000.00

Application Process =

1. Submit Application
2. Co-op chooses 3 projects to support
3. Projects displayed in local co-op stores / members choose which they want to support/ grant depends on which project gets the most support.
4. Grant awarded to project with most votes
5. The other 2 projects get £1000.00 each

(I believe there is nothing which would restrict us to promote support from local co-op members in the parish, for our project)

Tesco Community Grant – grants up to £1,500.00

Veolia Environmental Trust – Parks & Paths Grant.

Veolia grants does not cover CM areas

Chelmsford City Council - Community Funding Scheme./ Greener Chelmsford Grant through CIL funding

Only open to Unparished Wards

Community initiative Fund (CIL) funding - Available for Parish wards

Cil funds were paid by the Builders of Priory Corner & Hawthorn Close to Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacer Parish Council, which must be used 'for the good of the community' and should be available.

Essex Community initiative Fund

Closed October 2024 – No update available