

**Minutes of Friends of Priory Fields committee meeting**  
**7th August 2025**

**Present.** Ian Read, Dave Oxley-Goody, Den Harvey, Julie Norman, Trevor May, Val Dawes, Nick Rosam, Stanley Weiss, Sue Parish, Malcolm Whipp, Sandy Sinclair, Steve Bates and guest Adrian

**Apologies for absence.** Jo Britter

**Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising.** Read and agreed.

**Finance.** Ian presented the accounts on behalf of Jo. Current account - £343.44, deposit account - £10,192.19 and cash in hand - £100.00. The total funds are £10,635.63. Expenditure was fuel - £12.90, tools/maintenance £102.72 and events (AGM) £102.72. Income - none.

**Field projects.** Adrian attended our meeting and agreed the area we hope to set aside for wild flower planting by the arch will be ideal for bumble bees. According to Adrian we have a lot of bees all over the fields and to encourage more Adrian will advise on the best way to do this, for example building slopes and putting up old nesting boxes. Apparently the bumble bee specialists are very excited to hear how well the bumble bees have established themselves on our fields. It was suggested that a possible way to encourage visitors to the fields would be to have a 'critter count', as having bumble bees encourages other insect species. Maybe next year for our 21st anniversary we could have an event with Adrian giving a talk, with possibly a walk on the fields and maybe involve the Conservation Trust, Sandy to form a group to organise. Possibly contact Writtle college for help and advice. The Green Flag judge suggested we show all our risk assessments on the next application.

The Priory bridge is becoming a concern as we are struggling to find any funding. There will not be any funding from the Lottery community fund. Sandy will try the Coop again. We may need to involve the local community by using social media. Chelmsford has offered grant of £7000 and we hope that the Parish council may be able to match that and maybe our funds could make up the difference. We also need to check that the estimate we had at the beginning of the year still applies. Sandy to contact Derrick and Lesley Ruse regarding funding for the website.

**Working party.** The last working party we had the scouts helping us with general chores. We watered the trees, flailed and strimmed the new field again. At this working party there are some necessary repairs to be done on the Priory bridge and the bench by Priory bridge needs planks replacing and there are some dead branches need to be removed.

**Events.** Facebook is working well and Steve has kindly offered to put articles on Facebook including information regarding our medlar tree. We need to update the website by using a new company.

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

**Publicity and news items.** Items to be put on Facebook.

**Any other business.** Hay cut is overdue but due to lack of rain the crop is not good. It was agreed that Kevin Green could put up poster advertising a charity who voluntarily walk dogs for people unable to walk them themselves possibly through illness. Sandy has donated brand new loppers that she bought and is not able to use herself.

**Date of next meeting.** Thursday 11th September 2025