

Minutes of Friends of Priory Fields committee meeting
11th September 2025

Present. Ian Read, Dave Oxley-Goody, Den Harvey, Julie Norman, Nick Rosam, Stanley Weiss, Malcolm Whipp, Sandy Sinclair, Jo Britter, Garry Blackshaw

Apologies for absence. Val Dawes, Sue Parrish, Trevor May and Steve Bates.

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

Finance. Jo presented the accounts. Current account: £265.01, deposit account: £10,226.56 and cash in hand: £100.00. The total funds are £10,591.57. Expenditure was landscaping: £78.43. Income: bank interest £34.37.

Field Projects. Funding of the bridge is to be made up from a variety of grants. The Prosperity fund is to grant us £7,000 which we hope will be matched by Parish Council and a possible Co-op fund, which Sandy is hoping to obtain for us. We need to look into any price rises since our estimate for the bridge replacement and we need to look into getting the bridge replaced as soon as possible before any price rises and also some funding has date limitations. Garry has offered to look into possibly finding a cheaper option.

Regarding the wildflower area we are hoping to speak to Adrian if he is at the next working party.

The new field has gates leading through to Priors Field that need replacing. Decision needs to be made if a fence would be better and if we do replace with gates, which would be more suitable.

Our website desperately needs rebuilding at a cost of approximately £750, the decision was made to go ahead.

Working party. The trees were watered and planks on the bench in the Monument Field were replaced. Posts in the entrance to Moor Hall Lane were replaced and a repair was made to the hand rail on the bridge. Mowing was also done.

At this work party a new bench, which is being donated, is to be put in place in the new field near the stream. Wire needs to be fixed onto the new posts at Moor Hall Lane and also the notices replaced. General upkeep including mowing and flailing. The scouts will be helping where they can.

Events. A turkey voucher has already been received from Derek Kelly for the Christmas raffle. Garry is to check with the Parish Council regarding the Christmas light switch on and if it will still take place for us to draw our raffle in the school. If not another solution will need to be reached.

Sandy has kindly agreed to organise an event to mark our 21st anniversary next year. This will mean a sub committee will need to be organised. Sandy will report back with further details at the next meeting.

P.C. Matters. The legal issues regarding the land ownership and charity status will be taken to next Parish Council meeting after the summer break.

Publicity and news items. Article to go into next parish newsletter.

Any other business. A St Georges flag was put on our flag pole but we had to remove it as need to be seen as non political.

Julie has chosen a photo agreed by the committee for the Christmas cards.

The information board in the arch surround has become unclear, maybe need to consider a new one, if unable to clean it.

Dog waste is becoming a real problem again, sometimes is worse during school holidays.

Den would like to place a bench in the new field in memory of his late wife.

Date of next meeting. Thursday 9th October at 7.30.