

Minutes of Friends of Priory Fields committee meeting
9th October 2025

Present. Ian Read, Dave Oxley-Goody, Den Harvey, Julie Norman, Trevor May, Nick Rosam, Stanley Weiss, Malcolm Whipp, Sandy Sinclair and our parish council representative Gary Blackshaw.

Apologies for absence. Jo Britter, Sue Parish and Val Dawes.

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

Finance. Ian presented the accounts on behalf of Jo. Current account - £227.68, deposit account - £10,226.56 and cash in hand - £105.00. The total funds are £10,559.24. Expenditure was fuel and maintenance - £37.33. Income - dog tag £5.00

Field projects. There is a new estimate for the bridge which includes a structural engineer and a general rise in costs which is now £22,521.00. We are hoping for a grant from the Co-op to go towards the cost and there is an ECC Community Initiative Fund which we are applying for. We will need to give a deposit as soon as possible as we need to make an early start.

The gates to Priors Field need replacing but they are proving to be a difficult size, to have them made especially is going to be a lot more expensive. Gary will make enquiries. We may need to consider a fence with a removable panel to allow access as a cheaper option but this may affect our right of access.

The website needs rebuilding and general updating. Ian has approached a Sue Lees in Danbury for help and the cost will be £960-£1280 and £120 per annum upkeep. It was agreed to go ahead. Ian will ask Lesley and Derrick Ruse if they would be willing to make a donation.

Working party. Attaching the notices and wire fence to post in Moor Hall Lane entrance. General mow and strim. Scouts helped clear the ditch down to the garage.

Russ Dawes to prune the apple trees and the mulberry tree to be moved as not in the best position to thrive. Replace the lost and found box with new. Clean the board in the arch field. Mow paths and bramble trimming. Replace the wheelbarrow tyre for a solid one to avoid punctures.

Events. Waiting to hear what is happening with school regarding the raffle. If they do not do the carol singing we will need to find another way to draw the raffle. The 21st anniversary event is to be discussed at a later date.

P.C. Matters. Waiting to ask the school if they will be carol singing. Waiting to hear if cost of new gates for Priors Field will be approved at a cost of £1500. Money to go towards the cost of the bridge of £7,000+£2,000 has been approved matching the Prosperity Fund.

Publicity and news items. Waiting for parish magazine to be delivered which has our article in.

Any other business. It has been decided to call the new field Priors Wood. The date of AGM to be decided and how to incorporate the 21st anniversary. Due to difficulties finding somewhere local to have our Christmas meal, it has been decided to have drinks and nibbles after the December meeting.

Date of next meeting. Thursday 6th November 2025 at 7.30.