

FRIENDS OF PRIORY FIELDS

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING ON 9 AUGUST 2012

Present: John Bishop (Chairman & Acting Secretary)
Ian Read (Vice Chairman)
Chris Saltmarsh (PC Representative)
Julie Norman
Bob Norman
Peter Nightingale
Den Harvey

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	Apologies were received from Peter Athey, Linden Rosam, Kate Hardingham, Jo Britter, Geoffrey Woricker.
2.	MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING
	The minutes for the Committee meeting held on 12 July 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3.	PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES
3.1	Form RX1
	Advice sought from Brian Underwood had indicated that the Land Registry might not find a condition that required the population of the Parish to be consulted, acceptable. However it was decided to proceed in the manner proposed, subject to the Parish Council agreeing the Form and a letter of support at their meeting in September. It was agreed that the proposed Deed of Covenant, which will require longer to produce, will be the more effective long term document.
3.2	Hay crop
	With the continuing wet conditions Hay Crops are being delayed throughout the area. The advice of our contractor is that we continue to wait for a dry spell, although eventually it may be necessary to take the cut while still wet, in which case the crop will be of lower quality.

4.	TREASURERS' REPORT/BUDGET ITEMS
	With the Treasurer on holiday, there was no Treasurers Report to hand, although it was believed that there had been no expenditure during the month. A two month report will be presented at the next meeting.
5.	WORKING PARTIES
	Ian Read advised the list of jobs for the coming weekend's working party. The need to replace some of the jogging posts was discussed and CS mentioned that the PC has a stock of posts. The Chairman is to arrange with CS to collect some of those posts before the weekend.
	IR advised that we had been contacted through the website by a group from M & G who wanted to volunteer their services for a day on the Fields in a similar way to the Ford group of a few years ago. A list of possible jobs was produced and it was agreed the Chairman should respond to the M & G group asap.
6.	PUBLICITY
6.1	Publicity
	It was noted that a general news article and an 'advertisement' for the vacant posts of Secretary and Events Co-ordinator had been prepared for the September 'In Touch'. It was agreed that the article should also be sent to the Danbury Journal.
	It was noted that the In Touch magazine is delivered to all new residents of the Parish. It was agreed that we should seek to have a Priory Fields leaflet inserted into the magazine.
	CS reported that the PC has plans to develop a wider 'welcome pack' for new residents and it was agreed that we should seek to have a Fields leaflet included in that pack in due course.
	JN TO ACTION ABOVE ISSUES
6.2	Green Flag
	It was noted that we had been successful in getting an article into the Essex Chronicle publicising our Green Flag award.
6.3	Brown Sign
	The Chairman handed the Brown Sign documentation to CS. It was suggested that an early meeting with Essex Highways to discuss possibilities might be the way forward. CHAIRMAN TO LIAISE WITH PC REPRESENTATIVE
7.	FIELDS PROJECTS
7.1	Bee-keeping
	It was reported that Geoffrey Woricker had contacted a local bee expert, whose advice had been that the Fields are not a suitable environment for bee keeping. It was therefore decided not to pursue this issue any further.
7.2	Orchard/Hedging around Arch
	It was agreed that Peter Nightingale should visit Brogdale in Kent, the home of the National

	<p>Fruit Collection, to identify suitable varieties of trees for a small orchard and to see if Brogdale would be willing to donate some or all of the trees.</p> <p>The ideal time for planting the hedging close to the Arch would be November. The hedging is to be planted one metre from the fence of the adjacent houses.</p>
7.3	Additional colour
	Peter Nightingale is to investigate further the best way and time to purchase some bluebells.
7.4	Priory Outline
	<p>It was noted that it is the intention to mow the outline of the old Priory building into the grass with appropriate cornerstones bedded into the ground, at the September working party.</p> <p>It was suggested that we consider an additional information board giving more detail about the positioning of the Priory and all the various out buildings that would have been part of the Priory. The Chairman to talk to Brian Riley to seek his views on this idea and his support if we decide to go ahead.</p>
8	NEWS ITEMS
	<p>Den Harvey advised that one neighbouring property appeared to have cut a part of the field adjacent to that property. JB to check at weekend and report to PC for action, if necessary.</p> <p>Den Harvey also advised that the bags supplied by the PC for dog and general waste are not big enough for the general waste bins. JB to follow up with PC when Clerk back from holiday.</p> <p>Peter Nightingale advised that some new species had been seen on the fields and added to the relevant lists – Ringlet Butterfly, Common Darter Dragonfly and Common Blue Damselfly.</p> <p>Peter Nightingale suggested that the building of Tawny Owl and Kestrel boxes would aid the survival of those species on the fields. This would require the purchase of some marine ply with an estimated cost of £60. It was agreed that Peter should go ahead with this purchase, subject to the cost being no higher than the estimate plus 10 %.</p> <p>Chris Saltmarsh advised that the PC intend to go ahead with the purchase of several picnic benches, although progress by the supplier has been slow to date.</p>
9	NEXT MEETING
	The next main Committee meeting will be held on 13 September 2012.
	Meeting closed at 9.10 pm.