

**FRIENDS OF PRIORY FIELDS**

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Present:                      John Bishop (Chairman)                      Peter Nightingale  
                                       Ian Read (Vice Chairman)                      Geoffrey Woricker  
                                       Kate Hardingham (Secretary)  
                                       Linden Rosam (Treasurer)  
                                       Bob Norman  
                                       Julie Norman

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
	Apologies were received from Chris Saltmarsh, Peter Athey and Den Harvey.
<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES &amp; MATTERS ARISING</b>
	The minutes for the Committee meeting held on 9 August 2012 were approved and then signed by the Chairman.
	Publicity – it was noted that new Friends of Priory Fields leaflets will be put into the In Touch magazine for distribution to new residents moving into the village. Publicity – it was noted that Brian Riley of MAHG had agreed to assist the Friends with information to be included on a new public information board on the Fields.
	It was agreed that as a gesture of thanks to Brian Riley and the MAHG that the Friends would give him a gift of a framed print of the Arch and would invite him to the Friends’ Christmas dinner.
<b>3.</b>	<b>PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Joint Committee Meeting – 11 September</b>
	<p>The Chairman reported that the following items were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to picnic benches – the persons concerned have admitted to the offence and have been given an informal warning</li> <li>• RX1 – the formal wording needs to be agreed. The PC want to words to the effect that the community must be consulted prior to a disposition of the land. The Chairman has sought advice from Brian Underwood who has advised that the Land Registry is unlikely to allow this. It was noted that the Registry is likely to only use wording which is taken from or consistent with the terms of the original agreement for the purchase of the land when the Heritage Lottery Fund monies were received.</li> </ul> <p><b>JOHN BISHOP AND CHRIS SALTMARSH TO DISCUSS THE WORDING AND CIRCULATE PROPOSED WORDING TO THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change to the Friends’ financial year – the Chair reported that the PC has requested that the Committee amend the Friends’ financial year end (end August) to coincide with the PC year end (end March). This would require having a one-off half-year and it was agreed that the independent auditor be asked to advise (a) whether there is additional work and costs involved in the change and (b) whether he has any concerns regarding possible consequences in terms of process, timetable and</li> </ul>

	responsibilities to the PC. <b>LINDEN ROSAM TO APPROACH THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR FOR ADVICE</b>
3.2	<b>Haycrop</b>
	Geoffrey Woricker confirmed that the contractor will undertake the haycut on Saturday 16 September at 8am and it was agreed which Committee members would attend and when to assist him. Geoffrey Woricker confirmed that this would just be the cut and that the contractor would make a further visit, needing assistance again, turn and bale the hay.
4.	<b>TREASURERS' REPORT/BUDGET ITEMS</b>
	<p>The Treasurer presented her August report and highlighted that as it is the year end, it would be these figures which are audited. She noted that spending in 2011/2012 was low and that, as at the year end, the Committee was under-budget in most categories. It was agreed that the Committee over-budgeted for the 2011/2012 year largely due to allowances for costs involved in setting up a formal trust that has not occurred.</p> <p>It was noted that the 2012/2013 budget needs to be finalised but it was agreed that the Committee would delegate this decision to a separate meeting of at least two of their number to be held once advice had been received from the independent auditor.</p> <p>It was noted that the Secretary will be leaving the Committee next month and given that there is currently no one to replace her, it was agreed that Peter Nightingale will be the third signatory on the bank account.</p> <p><b>TREASURER TO OBTAIN NEW SIGNATORY FORMS FOR PETER NIGHTINGALE AND REMOVE KATE HARDINGHAM AS A SIGNATORY</b></p>
5.	<b>WORKING PARTIES</b>
	<p>It was noted that the following works will be carried out in the next few working parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cut the grass;</li> <li>• mark out the Priory outline;</li> <li>• reinforce the side of the main entrance;</li> <li>• investigate the spread of slow worms in the Fields;</li> <li>• place new picnic benches which PC have acquired;</li> </ul> <p>The following items were considered for future planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clearing the hedge which runs down the side of the car park (noted to be technically the responsibility of the Village Hall but agreed that the Committee has better resource to do it – with VH agreement);</li> <li>• putting up Cubs' bird boxes (though not heard from Cubs on this item)</li> <li>• get plans and detailed costings for a new bridge over the stream in west water meadow;</li> <li>• plant a Wild Cherry memorial tree;</li> <li>• plant hedge round the Memorial Field (costs agreed and Peter Nightingale tasked with ordering the required plants);</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that nothing further had been heard from M&amp;G and therefore it was presumed that no volunteers will be coming to assist.</p>

<b>6.</b>	<b>PUBLICITY</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Brown Sign</b>
	It was noted that, at the joint-committee meeting on 11 September 2012, it was agreed that Chris Saltmarsh will take the matter forward with the Borough Council. <b>CHRIS SALTMARSH WILL TAKE THE MATTER FORWARD WITH THE BOROUGH COUNCIL</b>
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Field races</b>
	It was noted that the children's races at the Olympics sports event in the summer were very popular and there was a discussion about whether this could be repeated and in what form and when in the spring/summer of 2013. It was agreed that the Committee should consider organising such an event and that ideas should be circulated prior to the next Committee meeting.
<b>7.</b>	<b>FIELDS PROJECTS</b>
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Orchard</b>
	Item deferred for discussion at the next meeting.
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Hedging around Arch</b>
	Item deferred for discussion at the next meeting.
<b>7.3</b>	<b>Additional colour</b>
	Item deferred for discussion at the next meeting.
<b>7.4</b>	<b>Priory Outline</b>
	It was noted that English Heritage have approved the use of slabs and the mowing of grass to mark the outline of the old Priory.
<b>8.</b>	<b>AGM</b>
	It was confirmed that Rod Brown had declined to speak at the AGM. After discussion of possible speakers it was agreed that Linden Rosam give the presentation which she and Peter Athey gave to the Church group earlier in the year. The Chair confirmed that the Pitman room had been booked and that he would speak to Peter Athey about what equipment would be required.
<b>9.</b>	<b>NEWS ITEMS</b>
	It was noted that DEFRA has announced that the Fields is likely to fall within a newly designated "nitrate vulnerable zone". This will require land owners to comply with certain restrictions. It was noted that this is unlikely to be onerous but that it should be raised with the PC.
<b>12.</b>	<b>NEXT MEETING</b>
	The next main Committee meeting will be held on 11 October 2012.

Signed: .....

Date: .....