

**FRIENDS OF PRIORY FIELDS**

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7th FEBRUARY 2013**

Present:                      John Bishop (Chairman & Treasurer)      Geoffrey Woricker  
                                     Ian Read (Vice Chairman)                      Julie Norman  
                                     Linden Rosam (Secretary)                      Bob Norman  
                                     Den Harvey    Ruth Collen (guest)  
                                     Peter Nightingale

1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
	Peter Athey; Chris Saltmarsh
2.	<b>MINUTES &amp; MATTERS ARISING</b>
	The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2013 were proposed by GW, seconded by IR and accepted.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The chipper/shredder that was hired stopped working after 1 hour therefore the hire fee was dropped and no charge levied.</li> <li>• Village hall donated £25 to thank us for clearing their pathway and asked if we would be prepared to clear it again. It was agreed that we would clear the pathway on an annual basis for a donation.</li> <li>• Brown sign: it would appear that our requirement is highly unusual and there is no process to cater for it. It seems there is no alternative avenue at present, therefore we will have to put this on ice for the time being.</li> <li>• Metal detecting: carried forward. <b>Action JB</b></li> </ul>
3.	<b>PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES</b>
	RX1: On further investigation it seems we have no choice but to use one of the simplified forms of wording to suit the land registry. Although this does not “say” quite as much as we would have liked there was some discussion over alternative methods of achieving the level of protection desired including the possibility of amending our constitution to take account of the wishes of the community at large; to be debated in the future. The simplified wording (see attached) was proposed by IR and seconded by PN and accepted by the meeting.
	Deed of Covenant: Currently awaiting response from the Parish Council
	Annual Parish Assembly: The date set for this is 10 <sup>th</sup> May and we have been asked if we would like to set up a stall as in previous years. The meeting agreed.
	New Church & Community Centre: We have been invited to send 3 representative(s) to a meeting to be held on 23 April about this project. There were a number of volunteers able to attend that date including PN, IR, LR, JN & BN. Actual attendees to be decided nearer the time.
	Kids Events: We have been asked if we are able to co-ordinate events for children under 6 on 4 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> April. Jo will be responsible for planning. Many ideas were suggested and it was agreed that ideas should be emailed around (including Jo). It was agreed that those available would meet up on 5 <sup>th</sup> March at Jo’s at 10am to progress this.

<b>4.</b>	<b>TREASURERS REPORT/BUDGET ITEMS</b>
	The largest expense last month was the mower service; there were very few other items of expenditure. It was agreed that there is very little else we can do about the service, Doe's provide reasonable service albeit at a cost.
	JB reported that Doe's will no longer accept cheque payment. He has spoken with our bank, Barclays, about this and they suggested that if we provide them (the bank) with a letter requesting payment and signed by two of our signatories then Barclays will make the payment.
<b>5.</b>	<b>WORKING PARTIES</b>
	IR reported that further work was undertaken on the hedge between the playing field and football field. The chipper/shredder didn't work very well, in fact it didn't last beyond an hour so there was no charge. There was further clearing of the ditch to be done this month.
<b>6.</b>	<b>PUBLICITY</b>
	PC Newsletter : we need to provide an article for the March newsletter. There was some discussion regarding topics for our article and Julie will pull something together.
<b>7.</b>	<b>FIELD PROJECTS</b>
	Apple Trees: (East Anglia Apples and Orchards Project ) The grant is provided by Chelmsford City Council directly to the PC for the trees. PN reported that the varieties of tree chosen are all old Essex varieties – 6 dessert and 4 culinary. We hope that people will pick them and use them. Varieties can be seen on the website <a href="http://www.applesandorchards.co.uk">www.applesandorchards.co.uk</a> . East of England Apples and Orchards Project (EEAOP).
	PN reported that Andrew Hellman from RHS would be interested in looking around our fields sometime in the summer.
	Bird Boxes: PN reported that time is now short for putting up the boxes. We have 21 bird nest boxes and 6 bat boxes to put up. There was some discussion about the siting of bat boxes and PN reported that bats use different position boxes at different times of the year and they should be put up facing NW, NE and S. It was agreed that 24 Feb at 10am would be box hanging day and that the cubs should be asked along. The Brownies have also expressed an interest in creating/hanging some boxes maybe later in the year. PN thought more bat boxes and some dormouse boxes would be good.
	PN reported that there was some concern about the fenced oak tree over by the horse field and he will ask the ranger (Stuart Banks) from Danbury if he is willing/able to come over and help with it because he has all the relevant qualifications.
	Asda Tokens: No further information available, GW will try to find out more.
	Priory Outline: There was some discussion about the prototype artwork design submitted by Rod Brown and it was agreed that it was best to have a separate meeting about the design of the notice board and this was set for 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.30 at village hall. All were in favour of a temporary notice board/poster being fixed to the railings. IR has prepped some information for our website and will get a quote from Elliott for creating and uploading the pages. All were in favour of going ahead with this if it costs less than £50.
	Ash Trees: No further information at present
	Free Trees: Our free trees are due to arrive early March and it was noted that they are in fact "hedging plants" rather than trees. It was agreed to set aside Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March for planting at 10am. Also planted that day will be the new Royal Oak. There was some discussion about ways of getting the community, specifically children, involved in this activity and it was decided that we should advertise the planting event as much as possible, asking people to bring a spade. It was suggested that we could provide the children with tags so

	<p>that they can put their name onto the plant(s) they plant. It was agreed there will be a register so that we can tell roughly how many will come along. Jo agreed to manage this and her phone no will be included on posters/info.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> JN will notify the girl guides; someone will notify the Brownies, the Cubs and the Scouts. JB will put a poster in our notice boards.</p>
	<p><b>Summer Event:</b> There are no fetes being planned by PC or others this year. We all agreed that we would like to host an event on the fields. JB reported that 2 of the village hall committee are very keen to be involved and he will circulate their names. It was felt that perhaps a themed picnic type event would work for this year as there is little time to organise it.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Julie, Jo, Linden and Ruth all volunteered to work on this project and set a meeting for 20 Feb at 7.30 at village hall.</p>
	<b>Jo left the meeting at 9.40</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>NEWS ITEMS</b>
	<p>AGM: 16 May was set as the date for our AGM. We would advertise it as 7.30 for 8pm JB would like us all to reflect on our budget for the new financial year and bring our ideas to the next meeting.</p>
	<p>Inspections: LR informed the meeting that she cannot access the fields at the present time as the ground is just too wet and soggy for her mobility scooter. JB will cover them.</p>
	<p>IR reported that there is a new volunteer who will hopefully turn up this coming weekend.</p>
<b>12.</b>	<b>NEXT MEETING</b>
	The next meeting will be held on 14 March at 7.30
	The meeting closed at 10.05pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....