

FRIENDS OF PRIORY FIELDS

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13th July 2017 7:30PM

Present: Ian Read (Chair)
John Bishop (Minute Taker)
Dave Oxley-Goody
Pam Dawson
Peter Nightingale
Malcolm Whipp
Den Harvey

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Peter Athey, Chris Saltmarsh

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that Peter Nightingale's First Aid Cert has not run out as specified in the minutes - it will run out in October.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman and Dave Oxley-Goody attended the recent funeral of Tony Bushell.

The Fields have been awarded a Green Flag again, but for now this information is not to be broadcast. There will be a 'mystery shopper' visit later in the year.

Concern was expressed over the misuse of the Fields (drug taking in particular) and the effect this might have in deterring other users. Dave Oxley-Goody was asked to contact the Crime Commissioner to ask for some assistance in resolving this.

4. FINANCE REPORT

The Treasurers report had been circulated before the meeting. The report showed that there were no financial transactions in the past month.

A form to allow Dave Oxley-Goody to be added as an additional signatory on the bank account has been completed. The Treasurer will sign this and deliver it to the bank.

It was reported that there is a £70 charge for attendance at a First Aid course. It was agreed that Dave Oxley-Goody would attend the next course in late September.

The Chairman raised the idea that local people be asked to become a Friend of the Fields by making a regular small annual subscription. After discussion it was decided not to pursue this idea.

The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by Eamon Scowen (thought to be Brian's grandson), who wished to donate some money to the Friends. The Chairman had suggested that the money could be used to provide a memorial tree for Brian, which Eamon was happy to agree to. Arrangements will be made to achieve that. Eamon agreed to pay the money into our Bank account – the Treasurer will check if this has been done.

It was also agreed that we would purchase a memorial tree for Tony Bushell.

Peter N will arrange to purchase both trees at an appropriate date later in the year.

The idea of a tree to provide shade in the picnic bench area was suggested. This idea will be considered further at a later date.

5 **REPORTS ON WORKING PARTIES**

Work done at the last working party included mowing all paths, cutting back growth of the hedge near the Arch following a neighbour complaint to the PC (which the neighbour was very happy with), and clearing the growth around all the apple trees.

The next working party will trim the hedge between the football fields and our fields. It was suggested that it might be appropriate to plant additional trees in the hedge. Peter N to consider this idea further.

6 **FIELD PROJECTS**

Another demonstration of a heavier grass cutting machine is organised for August 3rd. Discussion around paying for it included thinking about spending some of our current reserves on it – possible cost in the region of £5100.

Two new pairs of loppers are to be bought.

The next U3A (Hullbridge) visit is arranged for Friday July 28th. The Secretary to contact the U3A to confirm the date and get numbers of attendees. The Treasurer to talk to Geoffrey Woricker to arrange to borrow his local history documents for the occasion. Carolyn Bishop to be asked to provide cakes. Pam to talk to Julie re tea/coffee provision.

7 **PC-RELATED ISSUES**

The possibility of a new survey of the Arch is awaiting Chris Saltmarsh talking to Bakers.

8 **PUBLICITY, NEWS ITEMS & AOB**

No 'In Touch' articles will be produced until we have something worthwhile to say in them

No progress has yet been made on an advertising leaflets for the Fields. When one is produced it was agreed that they should be put in the Nursery before going to the Village Shop.

It was noted that we have no date for the hay crop yet.

Peter N advised recent sightings of a common lizard and field barley on the fields.

9 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday August 10th at 7.30pm.

Signed: