

FRIENDS OF PRIORY FIELDS

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10th August 2017 7:30PM

Present: Ian Read (Chair)
Dave Oxley-Goody (DOG)
Pam Dawson (PD)
Peter Nightingale(PN)
Malcolm Whipp
Chris Saltmarsh(CS)
Geoffrey Woricker (GW)
John Bishop (Minute Taker)(JB)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Den Harvey, Julie Norman

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes agreed.

Treasurer to confirm that Barclays have added DOG to our list of account signatories.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had received a call from Ken Crowe who was interested in the dissolution of the monasteries and had visited and photographed the Arch. He had also been in touch with GW who had agreed to make his historical records available to Mr Crowe.

A recent email from Julie Norman had informed us of the results of her operation and the Chairman expressed his best wishes for her full recovery.

The Hay Crop has not yet been taken, which is now getting rather late. DOG to call on the contractor to find out when it will be done.

Malcolm & Jane our mowers for the Arch area will be unable to do that mowing for some time due to ill health. This task will be included with the other mowing for the time being.

The chairman suggested that in future the agenda would be sent out on the Monday before each meeting to try to include any late issues.

4. FINANCE REPORT

The Treasurers report had been circulated before the meeting.

The report confirmed that a donation had been received from Eamon Scowen.

The fee paid for our First Aid Course included a 10% discount.

5. REPORTS ON WORKING PARTIES

Work done at the last working party included mowing all paths, clearing brambles and watering the apple trees.

The next working party will trim the hedge between the football fields and our fields and cut the grass.

It was agreed that a Horse Chestnut as a memorial to Tony Bushell would be the ideal tree for providing shade in the picnic area.

It was agreed that we should provide opportunities for potential new helpers who cannot make weekend working parties. Three dates were agreed - Wednesday August 23rd, Wednesday September 27th and Wednesday October 25th. DOG agreed to be available on these days to assist any volunteers who attend. All others welcome to attend. It was agreed that an advertisement for these days will be placed in our notice board.

6 FIELD PROJECTS

The demonstration of a heavier grass cutting machine arranged for August 3 did not happen. Further discussion with the potential supplier has resulted in a new date for a demonstration of August 22nd at 11.00.

It was agreed that we would pay for this machine, if we decide to buy it, out of our current reserves.

It was agreed that the Orchard area will be allowed to expand northwards as a space for further trees and that a third row, to the east of the existing trees would be allowed if numbers require it.

7 PC-RELATED ISSUES

A recent incident of an ambulance needing access to someone on the Fields had highlighted again that FBI padlocks, whilst theoretically ideal, in practice usually cause problems as they are not carried by the emergency services. The Parish Council will be addressing this problem in the near future for Priory Fields area and all other Council owned open spaces.

The new survey of the Arch, in theory due in October, is awaiting Chris Saltmarsh talking to Bakers. There will also be a need to talk to Historic England, initially to find out if they will operate in the same way as English Heritage did with respect to grants.

A new survey of all the trees in the Parish will be undertaken soon.

8 PUBLICITY, NEWS ITEMS & AOB

PD to draft In Touch article to include new midweek work parties.

Some advertising leaflets for the Fields have been delivered by PD to the local shop, the White Elm cafe and Maldon Tourist office.

Prizes for the Christmas Raffle need to be established before we can print the tickets. DOG to approach Kelly's for a turkey and JB to talk to Paul Bailey re free MOT.

PN & CS advise they will not be able to attend the next meeting.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday September 14th at 7.30pm.

Signed: