

FRIENDS OF PRIORY FIELDS

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14th September 2017 7:30PM

Present: Ian Read (Chair)
Dave Oxley-Goody (DOG)
Pam Dawson (PD)
Malcolm Whipp (MW)
Russell Wiltshire (RW)
John Bishop (Minute Taker)(JB)
Den Harvey (DH)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Julie & Bob Norman, Peter Nightingale, Chris Saltmarsh.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed Russell Wiltshire to his first meeting as a member of the Committee and asked all members of the Committee to add Russell's name and email address (russell.wiltshire@gmail.com) to their address lists.

The Hay Crop has still not been taken. It is now assumed that it is not going to happen this year. The feeling of the meeting was that this will not be a serious problem.

Malcolm & Jane, our mowers for the Arch area, have advised that the reason they would have been unable to mow has now been resolved, so they will continue to cut the grass in the Arch area.

FINANCE REPORT

The Treasurers report had been circulated before the meeting.

JB advised that DOG should now be fully recognised as a signing officer on our bank accounts, but he will endeavour to get confirmation of that from Barclays.

JB also to check if Linden Rosam is still on the list of signatories and what is the maximum number of signatories we can have.

5. REPORTS ON WORKING PARTIES

Work done at the last working party included mowing all paths, clearing a further area in the West water meadow, removing a number of dead tree branches and burning the remaining debris from previous working parties, along with new debris.

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

It was felt that a long-term rolling annual plan for working parties was needed and it was agreed that Peter Nightingale be asked to produce such a plan.

6 **FUND RAISING**

It was confirmed that a Kelly turkey and a free MOT test at Paul Bailey's garage would be available as prizes for this year's Christmas raffle. PD circulated a list of items to fill a Luxury Christmas Hamper as one of the prizes. All members were asked to volunteer to supply one of the items. DH agreed to ask if the Brewers would provide a meal as a raffle prize.

The date to draw the raffle will again be the date the Christmas lights are switched in Bicknacre. We need to get the date from Chris Saltmarsh or the Parish Clerk.

There was a doubt about whether we currently have a license to run raffles. JB was asked to check this with Chelmsford City Council.

7 **FIELD PROJECTS**

It was reported that a demonstration of a proposed heavy grass cutting machine had been successful and that an order had been placed for a new machine.

The machine needs to be paid for before it will be delivered. The suppliers have been asked to send an invoice to our Treasurer, but this had not yet happened.

The first mid-week working party had been successful in August, but it was felt that once the grass cutting stopped there may not be enough suitable work for similar working parties in future.

8 **PC-RELATED ISSUES**

As the PC representative was on holiday, nothing was discussed under this heading.

9 **PUBLICITY, NEWS ITEMS & AOB**

The Chairman advised that our display boards would be at the Local History Exhibition in the Woodham Ferrers Church on Saturday/Sunday 16/17 September.

It was agreed that we should again organise a Christmas meal for all committee and working party members at the Brewers, the date to be arranged at the next meeting.

DOG reported problems accessing the Friends website email. RW offered assistance to resolve the problem. The Chairman to email the required password to RW.

A resident living close to the Fields had reported bikes being ridden around the Fields at speed but this was not felt to be a problem at this stage. All to keep an eye out for this problem.

10 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday October 12th at 7.30pm.

Signed: