**Friends of Ball Grove**

**Minutes of Meeting held on:**

**Monday, 11th March 2024 7:00pm onwards**

**1) Welcome and Apologies;**

**Present:** Mel Healey, Les Cromey, Gillian Laycock, Chris McKee (BC)

Martin Ackroyd, Jennifer Lee, Ann Waddington

**Apologies;**

David Barrett, Roy Davies, Irene Taylor, Parish Representative

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and thanked them for their attendance

**2.1) Minutes of the last meeting 11th December 2023**

There were no corrections

Approved moved by Martin Ackroyd, seconded by Les Cromey

P**2.2) Matters arising**

Bench sited near the river side entrance to the playground.

Completed, A**part from some work on re levelling the base by PC.**

Notice board posts require sawing to the ground to prevent injury, position near the cafe

**Action; ongoing**

Re the goal post request, estimated costs possibly £350.

**Action; to make a request to TPC for possible consideration**

The concern about the request for a fence on the wall side of the playground.

**Action: to make request to PC for possible consideration**

The slope from the upper car park down to the park and cafe was very slippy.

**Action; Phil and Chris are awaiting a response for a submitted estimate of £2,000 from PBC Area Committee**

A discussion was held around the Friends of Ball Grove Facebook site. Currently only Tracey Bolton was the only person able to update/ add information etc. to the site.

**Action; After much discussion by the Friends it was decided to close the current Facebook page and to open a new page. Mel to inform/discuss with Tracey. Once up and running meetings and other activities will hopefully be posted on the site**

Discussion was held about a possible newsletter to inform Friends and the wider public about the Park and Reserve.

**Action; on going**

Discussion around the posters used to advertise meetings etc. Mel's use of the posters and increased attendance at the previous meeting has proved that interest in the friends group. The Friends felt we needed to keep informing the public about our meetings

**Action: Friends to leaflet: Bent Lane by Ann. Ball Grove Drive, Millbrook Court by Gillian. Cottontree area by Martin. Thank you.**

**Flyers to be put in local cafes, pubs and the community shop,**

**Mel and Chris to provide the leaflets, thanks.**

**3) Reports;**

**3.1)** Mel presented a Friends of Ball Grove Progress Report detailing (**see attachment)**

**3.2** Treasurers report was presented **(see attachment)**

Currently the funds held by the group are £6,628.79. after some costs had been deducted.

**4) Transfer of the Park to Trawden PC (Please Note; not on he agenda but was discussed as part of the meeting)**

Transfer has occurred.

Discussion were had relating to the boundaries of the park and reserve,

**Mel informed the group that there is a copy within the Management Plan PC if its required by the Friends.**

In addition the discussion held relating to the lease on the woodland (part of the Reserve) is possible nearly at an end. Once the lease ends who does the lease and monies revert to?

**Chris informed the Friends that payment is due next month, still unclear as to length of lease, Les thought it was for ten years, which he thought would soon be up.**

Questions were asked about who collects the fees from the anglers and who gets the money now TPC has Park ownership.

**Chris informed the Friends that Tracey collects the fees and takes 10%. Lee from the anglers group collects the money from Tracey on their behalf.**

Adele (TPC) is in the process of writing a Volunteer policy, practice and questionnaire

**Actions; Mel informed the Friends this has been completed and it should be available for the next meeting. In addition all volunteers have to sign that they are working.**

**Mel to bring the paperwork to the Next Friends Volunteers activity day on the 23rd March for the Friends to sign and also the AGM 20th May.**

Green Flag Award, a full inspection is required over the next year.

**Actions; Mel informed the Friends that TPC have agreed to fund the application for this year but that discussion by TPC would be held to consider future applications.**

**Mel to write to TPC to emphasis the influence the Green Flag Standard award has on the public use of the park**

**4) Sub- Group(Upper lake)**

Site visit has occurred, water source identified, surveyed by the Borough, the following options are being considered:

**Actions;**

**Breakdown of costs re piping**

**The flow rate, Phil is looking into the flow of water over differing periods of times.**

**Has Phil considered approaching the River trust for funding support.**

**Looking at the flow rate higher up the river.**

**5)Maintenance inspections**

TPC have requested volunteers to assist in Park inspections.

**Action; Mel and Les agreed to volunteer.**

**6) Planned and Future Volunteer Activities**

**Planned;**

Litter Picking continues, Thank you everyone

Bluebells and primroses are to be planted by the friends in the early Spring.

Mel (on behalf of the Friends) has purchased some primrose plugs and is currently growing them on for planting.

Buddleia planting to occur

Weed Spraying near the cafe has occurred.

**Action;**

**Future dates for volunteering days will be agreed between Mel and Chris (works with Phil) and the friends will be informed accordingly by e-mail.**

**NOTE 23rd March Buddleia planting meet Top car park**

**20th Wild Primrose planting meet Winewall car park**

**Another weed spray is possibly required near the cafe.**

**Proposed**

Priority are the steps by Riverside Cottage onto the large grass area. work isrequired tomake and repair steps near the disable car park leading to the upper car park.

**Action;**

**Work is required to rebuild and repair these areas.**

**7) AOB**

Phil would like to create/trial a wild seed bed within the park, near to the playground. This does have a cost implication, around £300/400, would it be possible to share costs between the Friends, Trawden Council and Pendle Council

**Action; the Friends agreed to allocate £100 from finances. Phil to inform the group of actions and share a map of the planting area.**

A wooden post has been removed from the upper car park entrance, this is allowing cars to drive out of the side between the gates and the hedging. A metal replacement pole is require.

**Action: Phil to look into this.**

A person is living in the woodland area off Spring Grove, near the Stables bungalow.

**Action: Chris to attempt to make contact re him leaving the woodland and leaving him contacts for housing and support.**

The signs relating to algae, near the 2 dog bins on the bridge are faded, they need removing or replacing’

**Action; Chris to discuss with Phil.**

Use of room by side of cafe

**Action; Yes, the Friends would like to use the room, unclear about use purpose. Les and Mel to arrange a meeting with those involved to view and discuss use.**

Safety car rails to Upper car park, some have been removed and need replacing for safety.

**Action: to approach TPC re this matter.**

Dog fouling is once again causing problems, is there any way action can be taken about this matter**.**

**Information; Chris informed group that there are no longer any dog wardens**

**Dates of next meetings:**

**AGM:**

**Monday 20th May 2024 at the Cotton tree Pub, 7pm.**

**General Meeting:**

**Dates to be set after the AGM**