

Friends of Ball Grove

Minutes of Meeting held:

Tuesday 16th August 2016

Meeting began at: 1905

Present: Les Cromey, John Belbin, Jerry Stanford, Muhammad Bari, Saima Bari, Julie Hibbert, Jim Harrison, , Janice Crozier, Sarah Cockburn-Price, Simon Reed.

1. The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for their attendance;

Apologies: Jean Harrison, Tracy Bolton, Sue Lindley, Louise Cooper.

- 2.1 Minutes of Last Meeting – 9th February 2016

There were no corrections

Approval moved John Belbin, seconded Jim Harrison Approved.

- 2.2 Matters arising not on agenda:

Entrance Improvements at the Winewall Road. – It was reported that a particular attractive plant just coming into bloom had been stolen.

This work is now essentially finished and thanks are due to those involved.

It was reported that there are still gaps in the car park where vehicles can still gain access to the Park when the gate is locked (a photo of the locked gate and a car parked on the other side near the children's playground) was shown to the committee.

It was also noticed that a sign had recently been placed on the gate indicating that residents need 24 hour access, apparently two vehicles had parked by the gate blocking access and the residents had driven from the car park over the grass to go home.

Nature Reserve Extension – As yet we have not received any results of the management plan and the flora and fauna survey of the area expected to be completed sometime in the Spring.

3. Reports

3.1 Green Flag – A new green flag was raised about two weeks before the meeting, photos were taken of the event and published in the Gazette.

- 3.2 Park Maintenance

It was reported that Marcus is now in charge of the Park maintenance.

Footpaths – John reported that he had noticed a trip hazard on the path round the top lodge where the black membrane had become exposed and he carried out a repair.

Bull Rushes in Top Lodge - Jerry explained that glyphosphate needs to be wiped onto the rushes whilst they are still growing in order to kill off the roots and should be done as soon as the nesting season finishes.

4. Financial Report.

Janice reported that there had been no further financial transactions either in or out. Presumably the balance is still the same at £3334.77.

We have not yet been invoiced for the improvements at the Winewall entrance.

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5. External Events
LNR Steering Group - Nothing to report.
Forum - Nothing to report.
6. Volunteer Activities.
Litter Picking: This is ongoing and will continue.
Balsam Bashing: Last years Balsam Bashing was very efficient there is much less Himalayan Balsam in the Park this year, this is being dealt with on an Ad Hoc basis by several Friends.
It was asked 'when is the next Volunteer Morning'?
7. AoB
Strimmer Purchase
There are several areas in the park that would benefit from more frequent strimming than the parks department are able to provide, Simon, who also volunteers at Alkincoats, suggested that if we can buy a petrol strimmer between the two parks he would be prepared to carryout the work himself.
This suggestion was well received, however Julie pointed out that the park department operatives had to undergo training and were covered by the council insurance and Simon wouldn't be covered.
Simon said he was prepared to go on a training course, it was agreed that Janice would look into the cost of the relevant insurance before any decision was made.
It was reported that two trees near to the playground had been damaged by knife/machete apparently similar damage had been done to trees on Alkincoats Park.
Muhammad and Saima Bari stated that they had been having problems with a neighbour allowing a large dog (probably a greyhound called Jay) jumping the fence and defecating in their garden. Whilst the committee sympathised with them but also acknowledged that the majority of dog owners exercising their dogs are responsible people and should not be judged on the actions of one thoughtless individual.
Muhammad and Saima Bari indicated that they would like to lease the meadow adjacent to their home (Brooklands) and plant it with approved wild flowers and they would take responsibility for its maintenance.
A lively discussion ensued most of the committee had no objection to the planting of approved wild flowers in this area because this had been tried before. It was pointed out that there are footpaths across this land and part of this area may come under the control of Laneshawbridge Parish Council and their approval may be necessary.
If this area was to be leased out certain provisos would be required such as, no fences, no obstruction of the footpaths, no impact on the wild animals – deer, weasels, sparrow hawks, squirrel etc. have been seen in this area.

It was agreed that Les Cromey and John Belbin should be approved signatories for cheques etc. at Janice's request.

Next meeting will be on: 15th November 2016.
14th February 2017 (note amendment)
Forum : 28th October 2016

LNR Steering Group : ?? TBA.