

# Friends of Ball Grove

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Minutes of Meeting held:

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Meeting began at: 1905

Present: Les Cromeey, John Belbin, Jerry Stanford, Muhammad Bari, Julie Hibbert, Jim Harrison, Gillian Laycock, Michelle Plimley.

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

Apologies: Jean Harrison, Sue Lindley, Janice Crozier, Simon Reed

- 2.1 Minutes of Last Meeting – 16th August 2016

There was one correction Paragraph 3.2 Keith Higson is the person to contact for park maintenance and David Walker for Environment issues not Marcus as reported.

Approval moved John Belbin, seconded Jim Harrison Approved.

- 2.2 Matters arising not on agenda:

Entrance Improvements at the Winewall Road.

The path along side of LBS fence is finished the bark/wood chippings are being consolidated with use and would benefit from topping up.

The boulders have been put in place to prevent cars parking on the grass and the wooden beams have been removed from the opposite side of the entrance, this area can now be planted as necessary.

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

The knee high fence around the car park has been repaired and replaced as necessary to prevent vehicle access to the park, this work and expense will obviously be a waste of time and money if the barrier were removed or left open.

3. Reports

- 3.1 Park Maintenance

The green flag award will be by 'mystery shopper' this year, it is essential to keep on top of the routine tasks at all times.

Footpaths.

Grass and weeds are encroaching onto the footpaths particularly round the top lodge reducing the effective width of the paths. There are some damaged duckboards on these paths, a lady stepped off the anti-slip chicken wire, which does not cover the full width, to avoid a damaged board slipped and fell, fortunately she was not seriously hurt.

Bull Rushes

Les reported that to control the spread of bull rushes in the top lodge, glyphosphate weed killer has been applied to some of the bull rushes, however it was thought that it may have been done too late in the year as the growing season is all but over.

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### 3.2 Lower car park barrier

There was a lively discussion about Mr Ashworths' request to remove the barrier, Julie mentioned that a further meeting with Mr Ashworth failed to reach agreement and there will be another meeting next week. Should this go to Colne Committee then the FOBG would like to be represented.

ALL those present were against the removal of the barrier for a variety of reasons viz:

The barrier was installed to deter unwelcome visitors and antisocial activities such as travellers, joy riders, drug pedlars and illegal car parking/dumping etc. all of which have been problems in the recent past before the Spring Grove building was converted into a residential property.

The following points were also raised:

The barrier is in Trawden parish & following their meeting they suggested that the Mountain Rescue should be asked to attend the scene & assess the access to the property via Spring Grove for the ambulance crew.

FOBG Support this idea.

An ambulance coming from Airedale & parking on the Keighley Road and accessing the property via Spring Grove would be 2 miles nearer than going via the lower car park in time this would save 6/7 minutes enough to save a life.

A coded key box would also be OK but access from Keighley Road into Spring Grove seems to be better for all.

### 4. Financial Report.

Janice was not present at the meeting but had reported that the balance is still the same and we have not as yet received the £500 from Tim Webber.

### 5. External Events

LNR Steering Group - Nothing to report.

Forum - It was stated that there are four options regarding the future of the parks and the possible funding, Julie had distributed the minutes but most of those present had not managed to read them. This could be a discussion topic at our next meeting.

### 6. Volunteer Activities.

Litter Picking: - This is ongoing and will continue.

Balsam Bashing:- This is finished for this year.

The next Volunteer Morning was to be Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Nov but had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. It was asked why Volunteer Days are always on a Thursday when many potential volunteers are working? Why not weekends or evenings in summer?

Bulb Planting: - The top field adjacent to Dr. Bari's house is to be planted up, Dr. Bari showed the meeting an impressive proposed planting scheme, with trees, shrubs and wild flowers. Work will start early next year on cultivating the middle part of the field in preparation for seeding and planting. Jerry thought it may be difficult and costly to get the requisite

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cultivation machinery to this area and wondered if a horse and plough could be found to do the work. This is a novel approach and could generate interest in the wider community.

7. AoB

Strimmer Purchase:- This is still in abeyance due to training and insurance issues.

It was stated that the path from the White House into the picnic area is very muddy could this be repaired? Two or three bags of gravel would help enormously.

Julie mentioned that there will be a campaign in Ball Grove Park to reduce dog fouling, glow in the dark posters will be displayed to jolt peoples consciences to clean up after their dogs.

The meeting ended at 20.15

Next meeting will be on: 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017 (note amendment)

Forum : 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017 10.30am Nelson Town Hall

LNR Steering Group : ?? TBA.