

# Friends of Ball Grove

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Minutes of Meeting held:

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Meeting began at: 1900

Present: John Belbin, Jerry Stanford, Muhammad Bari, Saima Bari, Julie Hibbert, Richard Turner, Jim Harrison, Les Cromey, Janice Crozier, Tony Davies, Steve Lawrence, Dawn Ainsworth, Matt Robinson, Tina Palfreeman, Karen Mitchell, David Mitchell.

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

Apologies: Jean Harrison, Tim Webber, Tracy Bolton, Helen Hodkinson, Gillian Laycock, Sue Lindley, Christine Hindle. Sarah Cockburn-Price, Tony Greaves, Simon Reed;  
Secretary advised that Helen Hodkinson has resigned through pressure of work.

- 2.1 Minutes of Last Meeting – 17th November 2015

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. - This entails finishing the path near the lower car park, landscaping the side garden, filling with soil and planting the garden opposite. This is expected to take at least two more volunteer days.

3. Reports

- 3.1 Nature Reserve :

Extension –The management plan and the flora and fauna survey of the area is expected to be completed sometime in the Spring.

- 3.2 Green Flag –

This year Julie advised there will be an inspection of the park for maintaining our Green Flag award.

- 3.3 Park Maintenance

Winter Storm Damage.

Several Friends reported storm damage to the footpaths at various places around the park, including a drain that was a potential trip hazard near to the old toilet block. It is anticipated that EAG will be able to carryout the necessary repairs. Julie will report the hazard as a matter of urgency.

Bull Rushes in Top Lodge

Lee is ready to glyphosphate the rushes as soon as the nesting season finishes.

Upper car park barrier

This is a lockable barrier which was erected to deter joy riders, vandals, drug dealers, caravans and other antisocial activities and has proved very successful over the years, Toni has been locking and unlocking the

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barrier for several years and deserves a huge vote of thanks. The general feeling is that she has done everything that could be reasonably asked of her and it was now time for others to share the responsibility. Several of the Ball Grove Drive residents agreed to become key holders and suggested that a rota be compiled to share the duties. Jerry made a list of the relevant people and contact details and agreed to organise a suitable rota system.

It was suggested that the opening and closing times should be more prominently displayed and warnings of the risk of vehicles being locked in if these times were not adhered to.

4. Plans for the Park and Nature Reserve

See 3.1 To be followed up when the Flora and Fauna survey is completed.

5. Café by the Lake.

It was reported that the New Year bash and quiz was a very successful evening.

It has been suggested that we hold meetings and events at the café in the future, although some concern was expressed about loyalty to the Cottontree Inn who have been so supportive of us over the years. It was also stated that Tracy could not host the meetings on a Tuesday evening.

A show of hands indicated that most people preferred meetings on Tuesday and were against a change of venue, so future meetings will be held on a Tuesday evening at the Cottontree Inn.

6. Financial Report

Funding availability:

The Treasurer reported that the balance is now £3334.77 although we have not yet been invoiced for the part complete improvements at the Winewall entrance.

7. External Events.

LNR Steering Group

Minutes have been circulated and nothing of significance was reported.

Parks Forum

Julie reported that the meetings had been reduced to 3 a year due to lack of business.

Jerry suggested to the meeting that there seemed to be increasing duplication and waste in holding both the Steering group and the Parks Forum and perhaps the two should be combined. Julie advised that one thought is that a Forum should only be held when there was specific issues to discuss.

8. Volunteer Activities

8.1 Litter Picking: this will continue.

8.2 The next Ball Grove volunteer day will be on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 10.00 am until 12.00

9. AoB

Defend Your Park Conference-

John reported that these seem to be held mainly in West Lancashire, too far to travel but if they could be held in East Lancashire there would be more incentive to attend.

Friends of Ball Grove – Secretary

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Jerry is not offering himself for re-election as Secretary but will continue on the committee.

If you are interested in giving this a go or know someone who might be please e-mail Jerry for more details at [jerrystanford@btinternet.com](mailto:jerrystanford@btinternet.com).

There was no other business.

Next meeting will be our AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

Forum :19<sup>th</sup> February 2016

LNR Steering Group : Wed 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016