

**FRIENDS OF ALKINCOATS PARK
MEETING**

**18th July 2016
At Colne Town Hall**

Present:

Audrey Broughton (Chair)
Patricia Clamp
Cllr David Clegg
Glenda Clegg
Julie Hibbert (PBC)
Brenda Maylor
Colette McInerney
Janet Myers
Marie Oakley
Carol Riley
Jane Wright

1. Apologies

Donald Mitchell, Marie Jackson, Daryl Wright, David Clamp, Steve Clamp, Vicky Wright, Beryl Horrocks and Eileen Eve.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Approved as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

Picnic Tables

Originally there had been four picnic tables. Table 1 was next to the pavilion. Table 2 was ready to go in next to the pavilion, but in view of recent graffiti and vandalism it was being left until things quietened down. Table 3 had been put in the wildflower meadow. Table 4 had been so badly damaged that it couldn't be repaired. The Council was thinking of painting the tables black if the graffiti continued.

4. The Friends of Alkincoats Park Officers

At the AGM on 4 April nobody had volunteered to take on any roles. The following was agreed to enable the group to continue:

Chairman - Audrey Broughton
Vice Chairman – David Clamp
Treasurer – Marie Jackson
Parks Forum Rep – Audrey Broughton
Secretary – Vacant

5. Pavilion Cafe

Members of the group were pleased that the café was up and running. It was commented that the people running the café were very nice and approachable; the food was good and reasonably priced.

6. Provision for Horse Riders

Janet Myers had circulated a map of park paths that horse riders were allowed to use to livery yards in the area, asking for their cooperation. Janet said that she (and a few others) was also in the process of conducting a survey; asking park users for their views of horses in the park.

Janet then outlined a couple of ideas she had to improve facilities for horse riders i.e. new concessionary bridleway and a segregated canter track (near Priestfield Avenue). She asked the group for their concerns/ideas so that she could take these things into consideration when putting her ideas together in a plan.

It was thought that the plan could then be discussed at a future meeting.

7. Hedge

Pendle Council had removed the hedge next to the pavilion in an attempt to reduce anti-social behaviour by opening up the area. The friends group felt that they had not been properly consulted on this therefore Colne and District Committee had asked the Council to reinstate it. The group thanked Cllr David Clegg and Cllr Joe Cooney for their intervention.

The group also felt that they should have been consulted on the type of replacement hedge. Audrey Broughton asked to be informed when the new hedge was going in so that she could be present at the time.

8. Any Other Business

Vandalism

In addition to graffiti and damage caused to the picnic tables, three benches had been damaged on the main path leading to the bandstand area. It looked like a knife had been used to cause the damage. One bench was thought to be dangerous as it was so badly splintered. Julie Hibbert said she would report this.

Anti-social Behaviour

Youths were again gathering around the pavilion and abusing the bowling greens by running across, riding bikes across or playing football on them. The Philip Wright Bowling Green Academy was very upset about this. They had spent hours working on the greens and also with youngsters in the park. Questions were asked about the policing of the park and it was asked for this to be reported to the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer. Audrey Broughton said that she had already raised this with the Community Safety Group.

Tarmac Path

It was asked that all rubbish be removed by the contractor after the path has been resurfaced.

Football/Basket Ball area

The entrance was water logged and it was asked if this could be sorted as it was preventing children from using the area.

Wild Flower Meadow

The group asked if more paths could be mown through the wildflower area similar to last year. Marie Oakley provided a plan. Julie Hibbert said she would pass the plan to the manager of the Landscape Maintenance team.

Compost Area

It had previously been suggested that a compost area could be put in the park and it was asked if there were any plans to do this. Julie Hibbert said she would enquire about this.

Green Flag Award

Everyone was pleased that the park had again received the award in 2016.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

3 October 2016 at 7.00pm (to be confirmed)