

Friends of Ball Grove

Minutes of Meeting held:

Tuesday 14th February 2017

Meeting began at: 1905

Present: Les Cromey, John Belbin, Julie Hibbert, Gillian Laycock, Michelle Plimley, Janice Crozier, David Storey (TPC) Tony Greaves, Mathew Robinson

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

Apologies: John Belbin, Jean Harrison, Jim Harrison, Simon Reed, Sarah Cockburn Price

- 2.1 Minutes of Last Meeting – 15 November 2016

No outstanding actions

Approval moved Michelle Plimley, seconded Gillian Laycock

Approved.

- 2.2 Matters arising not on agenda:

None

3. Reports

- 3.1 Park Maintenance

Paths: Due to eroding cement steps have been created at the far side of the pond.

- 3.2 Lower car park barrier

The discussion about the barrier at the Cotton Tree end of the park continues.

Tony Greaves has been very helpful regarding the locking difficulties.

While, legally, enforced locking can't be enforced a key lock box with a code to gain a key has been put in place and keys given to all relevant householders and service departments. However it is reported that the barrier is still not being locked and either left wide open or just pushed too.

It was felt that locking should be maintained 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.

ACTION: It was agreed that Friends of Ball Grove and involved householders would monitor the locking situation and report back to the next meeting

- 3.3. Upper car park barrier

The top height restriction bars continue to cause concern. It is unclear whether they have been fully mended but they are being left open, possibly by delivery vans to the cafe or contract service workers. Again it was felt that the same need to maintain locking of these barriers was required as mentioned above in the lower car park locking concerns.

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ACTION; Les to action with appropriate persons the need to shut/ lock the height restriction bars

3.4 Future Park developments:

David Storey was welcomed on behalf of Trawden Parish Council. (TPC)
A lengthy discussion was held around future funding for Ball Grove Park and Nature reserve. Park maintenance(for cleaning, sweeping, removing litter, flower beds, shrubs, trees, grass cutting and play equipment, not toilets) funding is to be reduced by approximately £5.000. TPC have agreed to make up this funding for the next current year. Tony Greaves reported that this was the first step in a process that would see changes to Council Parks Services due to Government reductions of funding to Pendle and the merges of local councils. It is thought that eventually all funding for parks will be passed to those Parish Councils agreeing to manage their local parks.

Tony Greaves stated that the process being put into place is to protect the parks for the community.

It should be noted that the funding is for the park maintenance not the nature reserve. Funding is by grants, bids and additional monies identified given by the council or through the Friends of Ball Grove Park.

4. Financial Report.
Janice reported that the balance is still £3,834.77 and we have received £500 from Tim Webber.
No outstanding invoices
5. External Events
LNR Steering Group - Nothing to report.
Forum - Next meeting Friday 17th February 2017
Les unable to attend
6. Volunteer Activities.
Litter Picking: - This is ongoing and will continue.
Balsam Bashing: - This is finished for this year.

The next Volunteer Morning is Thursday 16th February. We will be joining with the anglers in clearing around the immediate lake area

Bulb and tree planting: The top field adjacent to Dr. Bari's house is to be planted up, work will start in March

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7. AoB

Julie mentioned;

That the campaign in Ball Grove Park to reduce dog fouling had finished. We are awaiting the evaluation re the effectiveness of this campaign.

It was reported that the café is to become the Polling station instead of the church. Next election; 4th May 2017

The Big Spring Clean is about to start, Les to email details to friends

The meeting ended at 20.45

Next meeting will be on: AGM 16th May 2017, 7. 00 pm Cotton Tree Pub

Forum : 17th February 2017 10.30am Nelson Town Hall

LNR Steering Group : no date given.