

Friends of Ball Grove

Minutes of Meeting held:

Tuesday 15th August 2017

Meeting began at: 1905

Present: Les Cromeey, John Belbin, Jerry Stanford, Julie Hibbert, Jim Harrison, Gillian Laycock, Michelle Plimley, Sarah Cockburn-Price.

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

Apologies: Jean Harrison, Janice Crozier, Mr and Mrs Muhammad Bari, Tony Greaves, Matthew Robinson.

- 2.1 Minutes of Last Meeting – 14th February 2017

There were no corrections

Approval moved Gillian Laycock, Seconded Michelle Plimley

Approved.

- 2.2 Matters arising not on agenda:

Entrance Improvements at the Winewall Road.

There is a large pot hole at the car park entrance which is difficult to avoid this needs filling in, if only temporary, until permanent repairs are undertaken.

Michelle mentioned that a lot of the pot holes on the road leading to the White House have recently been filled in by her builders, Les said he had already noticed that some repairs had been done and thanks were due to those responsible.

There are a couple of pot holes between the disabled car park (near the café) and the lakeside car park that need attention.

3. Reports

- 3.1 Park Maintenance

The green flag, which had been blown down by strong winds, has now been replaced.

Footpaths.

The new footpath from top car park needs some attention as it is very slippery when wet.

The new concrete steps on the path round the top lodge are not wheelchair friendly; could anything be done to aid wheelchair access in this area?

Brambles and nettles 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 which need repair or replacing.

- 3.2 Car park barriers.

Michelle reported that there have been no further thefts from the White House now that the barriers are being kept locked when not in use for access.

This system appears to be working satisfactory after the initial teething problems. Les & Michelle have been in contact with Philip Mousdale and will report back in due course.

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Gillian reported that two of the edging stones adjacent to the top car park barrier have been lifted out probably to allow vehicular access/egress when the barrier is locked. These need fixing back in place and if possible a post put in to deter any reoccurrence. Les said he will contact Kieron to effect the necessary repairs.

3.3 Weir Repairs

The river bank had been eroding below the weir/fish ladder and was said to be endangering a sewer pipe in this area a number of large boulders have been placed in position to strengthen the bank. This work has left unsightly wheel ruts from the tractors and damaged some of the grassy areas. The River Ribble trust replaced the damaged grassy areas with new turf but unfortunately it appears that vandals have removed the turf and thrown it into the river.

The wheel ruts still need filling, possibly with top soil and seeding.

3.4 Top Field adjacent to Dr Baris' house.

Les reported that Dr Bari had decided not to take up his option to lease this field due to a lot of public opposition, this was thought to be due to a general perception that Dr Bari was trying to make this area an extension of his own garden rather than a public amenity for the whole community. This area is now looking rather worse for wear Les is to ask Lee/Kieron to see if they can improve the appearance of this area.

It was reported that there is a large area of Himalayan Balsam, a non-native invasive specie close to Dr Baris' garden which could colonise the whole area if left unchecked.

4. Financial Report.

Janice was not present at the meeting.

5. External Events

LNR Steering Group - Nothing to report.
Forum - Nothing to report - the Forum may be discontinued.

6. Volunteer Activities.

Litter Picking: - This is ongoing and will continue.

Balsam Bashing:- Apart from the area close to Dr Baris' garden there is less Balsam in the park than in previous years but we should still monitor the situation. Every year each parent plant can fire up to 800 seeds over 20 feet away.

Tree and Bulb Planting:-

John pointed out that bulbs should be planted very soon for flowering next spring.

There followed a lively discussion on the type of suitable bulbs and where they should be located. Most of those present seemed to favour planting Bluebell bulbs under the trees in the nature reserve. John pointed out that the Bluebells should be a native variety and purchased from an 'approved' source.

The next Volunteer Morning will be - TBA.

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It was again asked why Volunteer Days are always on a Thursday when many potential volunteers are working? Why not weekends or evenings in summer? It was pointed out that the Parks Department do not usually work at weekends. It was suggested that there are a lot of young people out there who would be only too pleased to get involved with worthwhile community projects Sarah suggested making an advertising banner the project could be called 'The Power Hour'

7. AoB

It was suggested that we should have our own Web Site Sarah agreed to look into this with the WEEBLY group who are said to be very good and economical.

John mentioned that Tracy has a Facebook page and we could probably use that as well.

Dog Fouling Campaign :-

It was asked how successful was the recent campaign? Les to ask Kieron to report back?

Ball Grove is very popular with dog walkers and several complaints have been made that the dog waste bins have been full to overflowing could consideration be given to increasing the number of bins or replacing the existing bins with larger ones?

Nature Reserve Survey :-

A recent survey by John Lamb has included Council land on the south side of Colne Water opposite the White House as part of the Nature Reserve. Is this correct?

There is no access to this area from Ball grove. Les is to clarify the situation with John Lamb and the Council.

The meeting ended at 20.10

Next meeting will be on: 14th November 2017

Forum : ??

LNR Steering Group : Tuesday 12th September 2017