

FRIENDS OF ALKINCOATS PARK
MEETING ON MONDAY OCTOBER 2ND 2017
AT PAVILION CAFÉ.

PRESENT

Pat Clamp
Daryl Wright
David Clamp
Howard Kitchen
Lynn Kitchen
Glennnda Clegg
David Clegg
Marie Jackson
Brenda Maylor
Audrey Broughton
Beryl Horrocks
Julie Hibbert (PBC)
Marie Oakley

APOLOGIES

Christine King
Colette McNerney
Stephen Clamp
Jane Wright

MINUTES PREVIOUS MEETING These were passed

MATTERS ARISING

Questions were asked as to why yellow metal 'nets' had been erected as tennis players seemed to dislike them, and therefore why further metal 'nets' were being planned. We were told they were cost effective.

Re-siting of the MUGA in the park. We were told that at present there was a planning application in for a larger BMW car park, a car park for Boundary Mill staff, and for a skate park to be set up on a further piece of land. In order to facilitate the moving of the MUGA to the park we were told the

Council will need to make sufficient money out of the deal to cover the cost of re-siting it. A further condition would be that there could not be lights around it.

Anti-social behaviour

Numerous members complained about the fact that there were still many incidents of anti-social behaviour around the Pavilion café and bowling green area and no-one seemed able to do anything about it. These incidents have been reported to the Police and the Safety Partnership on many occasions but with no results. Audrey was going to raise the matter yet again with The Safety Partnership.

Julie told us that the wooden sculptures had been weather-treated, the damaged picnic table at the top of the park was beyond repair and the tennis court netting was in the process of being repaired.

She also reported that the new drainage system for the new houses adjacent to the park was almost completed.

David told us that the young offender caught vandalising a picnic table had been caught and had done excellent work around the bowling green.

BOWLING GROUP

This has again been very successful with over 1,200 people taking part over the season. Matches were only rained off twice and already there are enquiries for next year. Both greens are closed at the moment but it is planned that Green 2 will be open all Winter.

CAFÉ

The café is now working Winter hours and so will be closing at 3pm. There is a new menu and through December on Tuesdays and Thursdays Christmas lunches will be served, but booking will be necessary.

BT LINE. This has now been installed and is working and is hooked up to the CCTV system.

WORK TO BE REPORTED

The benches in the Park are to be repainted in Spring.

The troughings over the steps and Disabled Entrance to the Pavilion need repairing. David has offered to do this.

The steps between the tennis courts need weeding and the Bandstand needs sweeping. Rubbish under benches in the Bandstand also needs clearing.

The gully at the bottom of the Bridle Path keeps blocking with leaves.

WORK DAYS

Work Days to do some of this work have been planned. David suggested anyone interested could meet him every Thursday at 10am and also a full day was planned for Saturday October 14th again at 10am.

GREEN FLAG

There was a mix-up with dates, but the flag was raised last Wednesday (Sept 27th)! Numerous members queried how we had managed to get a Green Flag Award as there had been little or no maintenance

done during the summer. Grass hadn't been cut, flower beds were not weeded and the Park as a whole looked uncared for and unkempt. It was explained that there had been further cuts to the Parks budget. Comments were made that David alone seems to do more work than all the Council workers put together.

A.O.B

There was a long discussion as to the possible future of Parks. The group are hoping that Colne Town Council will eventually take over responsibility for Alkincoats if not next year, then in 2019. We hoped that someone from the Council could come to talk to the Group about this.

It was agreed that we need many more volunteers to help with work in the Park. As cuts continue it was agreed that up to 50 people could be needed. The idea of maybe grassing over the flower beds was put forward but the Group agreed that this would not be a good move.

Thanks were expressed to the Mayoress for all her hard work in helping the Friends Groups and it was suggested that the Mayor and Mayoress could receive the Minutes of our meeting and be invited to our next meeting in January

David told us that 1000s of daffodils are being planted for next Spring and also that he is getting Derek Gascoigne's dahlia collection for the Summer.

There is to be an outside defib fitted to the Pavilion.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. January 29th 2018 at the Pavilion at 7pm