

# Friends of Ball Grove

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Minutes of Meeting held:

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Meeting began at: 1905

Present: Les Cromeey, John Belbin, Jerry Stanford, Julie Hibbert PBC, Jim Harrison, Jean Harrison, Gillian Laycock, Michelle Plimley, Barry Hodgson Trawden Parish Council, and David Storey Trawden Parish Council.

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

Apologies: Sarah Cockburn-Price, Janice Crozier, Mr and Mrs Muhammad Bari, Matthew Robinson.

- 2.1 Minutes of Last Meeting – 15th August 2017

There were no corrections

Approval moved John Belbin, Seconded Jerry Stanford                      Approved.

3. Reports

- 3.1 Park Maintenance

At the Winewall Road entrance to the car park a large pot hole has been filled in.

Several pot holes between the disabled car park (near the café) and the lakeside car park have also been repaired.

- Footpaths.

The new concrete steps on the path round the top lodge are not wheelchair friendly; it was suggested that a path could be made alongside the steps.

There are some damaged duckboards on these paths which still need repair or replacing.

- 3.2 Car park barriers.

The barriers are being locked (when not in use for access) the system appears to be working satisfactory after the initial teething problems.

The key for the top car park height barrier is held at the café.

Gillian had previously 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. A post had been erected in an attempt to deter unauthorised access but this too had been removed. It was suggested that large boulders, similar to those used on the weir, would be more effective. Barry offered his help to put them in the best position once they were delivered.

- 3.3 Weir Repairs

The work on the weir/fish ladder has left unsightly wheel ruts from the tractors and damaged some of the grassy areas making the path very muddy and almost unusable in wet weather. It was suggested that the River Ribble trust should be contacted to affect suitable repairs.

David said he could arrange for wood chippings to be delivered if necessary.

- 3.4 Top Field (adjacent to Dr Bari's house).

Les confirmed 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

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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. 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. It is probably too late to go Balsam Bashing this year we need to bear this in mind for next year on a Volunteer day.

### 3.5 Ball Grove Web Site.

This is now up and running with many historical photos of Ball Grove.  
[www.ballgrove.org](http://www.ballgrove.org)

### 4. Financial Report.

Janice was not present at the meeting.

Les said the only change he was aware of was the cost of the new Web site to Sarah which was about £100.

### 5. External Events

LNR Steering Group - Nothing to report.

Forum - Nothing to report - the Forum may be discontinued.

### 6. Volunteer Activities.

6.1 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.

6.2 Tree and Bulb Planting:-

John pointed out that the Bluebells should be a native variety and purchased from an 'approved' source, it is probably too late in the year to plant spring flowering bulbs and this should be borne in mind for next year.

6.3 The next Volunteer Morning will be - TBA.

### 7. AoB

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? A map of Ball Grove with the bin locations would be helpful for the refuse collectors.

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.

Les confirmed that this was correct even though there is no access to this area from Ball Grove.

Julie mentioned that the path from the top car park into Ball Grove was steep and often slippery and there were plans to construct a hand rail to aid safe access.

The meeting ended at 20.05

Next meeting will be on:	Ball Grove	13 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
	Forum :	??
	LNR Steering Group :	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2017