

**FRIENDS OF ALKINCOATS**  
**MEETING ON MONDAY JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>**  
**AT 7PM AT THE PAVILION CAFÉ**

**PRESENT**

M. Oakley, C. McInerney, M. Jackson, D. Riley, Barbara Whalley (Mayoress), Pat Clamp, David Clamp, D. Wright, David Whalley (Mayor), Eileen Guf, Philip Cowell, Audrey Broughton, Steve Clamp, Brenda Maylor, Glenda Clegg, David Clegg,

**APOLOGIES**

Julie Hibbert, Beryl Horrocks, Christine King

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** The amended minutes were passed.

**MATTERS ARISING.**

The criteria for being awarded The Green Flag were discussed. Details of the criteria had been sent from Kieron and his explanation of how we had been awarded The Flag were also discussed. Members wondered whether having a green flag would mean we could get extra money for the park, but we were told it would not, but it would make it easier to obtain external funding

The Action Plan for this award in 2018 was also talked about. This year there has to be a formal inspection rather than a mystery shopper as there had been in 2017. Emails sent from Kieron on this topic had been forwarded to members and the consensus of opinion was that rather than new, expensive innovations which we could not afford anyway, basic maintenance would need to be the main plan of action.

Concerned was expressed about the state of the 'Wild Flower' meadow which has been over run with soft rush and weeds. Apparently, the farmer who cut the meadow and removed the cut grass only did so once a year and at the wrong time of year at that. Lee is aware of the problem and has promised to deal with it as soon as the weather improves sufficiently to allow machinery on the grass.

The path along the bottom of the tennis courts has had a new drain put in.

**POSTERS AND VOLUNTEERS.**

Members were shown fliers and posters which we were planning to have photocopied and handed out to would be volunteers. Some members were hoping to give them to Saturday runners in the park and also to target dog walkers. The Mayoress kindly offered to put copies of the posters on Facebook to see whether that might get some volunteers. A discussion took place as to the possibility of involving schools. David and a number of bowling green members have Safeguarding certificates, but there was also the problem of insurance and health and safety issues.

## **CAFÉ**

Eileen told us that the café had won a Lancashire Evening Telegraph Award and that it had won by 100 votes. She was hoping that this publicity would attract even more customers. It has already brought us one new member, Philip Cowell, (welcome!)

## **DOGS ON LEADS.**

This turned out to be a very contentious issue. As Bye Laws will die at the end of this year, Public Space Protection Orders (P.S.P.O) are taking their place. One of these P.S.P.O's is regarding dogs on leads in public parks. There has been a consultation and many members have made their feelings known by filling in forms which are returned to Blackpool. (It was explained that Blackpool Borough Council are the company who can do the consultation at the most reasonable price. ) The general feeling was that apart from the children's playground and the tennis courts, which need much larger signs showing that dogs were banned in these areas, there was no need to have dogs on leads. A vote was taken on this matter and members voted overwhelmingly to oppose dogs being restricted in this way. It was further felt that dog walkers were the eyes and ears of the park, their presence helped enormously in preventing vandalism and we did not want to lose them.

## **BANK**

Donald Mitchell's name has now been removed as a signatory and Marie Oakley and Marie Whalley Can now jointly sign cheques.

## **WORK DAY**

David is happy to run a work day any Thursday if people wish to simply turn up. One of the biggest problems was identified as litter, particularly around the car park.

## **A.O.B.**

Daryl was to have a meeting on Tuesday Jan 30<sup>th</sup> with Kieron about getting funding from Social Prescribing.

A new drain is to be installed along the path at the top of the tennis courts

Concerns were raised about drones in the park and how we were going to prevent them being flown. The green Spaces manager had been informed of the problem.

The use of the park for advertising cars was discussed. We wondered whether we could get any donations from the companies involved.

It was noted that trough repairs around the pavilion were still in progress but would soon be finished.

The invitations to both The Mayor's Ball and The Mayor's Civic Reception were extended to all members.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at The Pavilion Café.