

FRIENDS OF ALKINCOATS
MEETING ON MONDAY MARCH 26TH
AT 7PM AT THE PAVILION CAFÉ.

PRESENT

Carol Riley, Pat Clamp, David Clamp, Vanessa Hothersall, Glenda Clegg, David Clegg, Audrey Broughton, Marie Oakley, Beryl Horrocks, Julie Hibbert (PBC), Marie Jackson.

APOLOGIES.

Philip Cowell, Colette McInerney, Stephen Clamp, Brenda Maylor, Daryl Wright.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING. These were passed.

MATTERS ARISING

People flying large drones have not been back in the park since they were reported.

Audrey has had a large number of fliers printed asking for volunteers to help with work in the park. Vanessa, a new member, has very kindly offered to distribute them amongst the park runners next Saturday. Thank you Vanessa.

The matter of Lloyds garage using the park as a backdrop for car sales was again discussed. Apparently they are now also doing some car valeting in the park. Julie is going to make a report to The Council about this as the group feel that what Lloyds are doing is inappropriate in the park.

WILD FLOWER MEADOW.

This is causing a great deal of concern to the group. Whilst all agree that the original idea was good, and the first couple of years gave a lovely display, largely due to neglect, the area is no longer a wild flower meadow, but simply rough scrub land and an eyesore. Members wanted to know what could be done to improve the area. One suggestion was to make it into a nature reserve.

ACCIDENT IN THE PARK

Whilst no-one had actually seen the accident it was rumoured that a Pendle Council vehicle had gone up the banking adjacent to the tennis courts and had ploughed through the fencing surrounding the tennis courts taking a large amount of fencing and posts down in its wake. This has now been repaired. We were told that if a council vehicle had done the damage there would be disciplinary action taken. David Clegg said he would try to find out what had happened. Members of the group were annoyed that money spent on the repairs could have been spent on other areas of the park.

MAYOR'S BALL AND FISH AND CHIP QUIZ NIGHT.

All those who attended reported that the ball was an excellent, enjoyable night out.....especially as a number of members won prizes! Members also enjoyed the quiz night and Marie Jackson won the quiz.

LORD STREET SCHOOL

Audrey has tried to contact the teacher who is involved with gardening but as yet has had no reply. We were hoping the school may be interested in involving the children with some planting and litter picking. She is going to try again through the Head Master.

HELP FOR WORK DAYS

Audrey has found an organisation which is involved with a number of churches who may be available to help. She is going to look into this. A couple of people did offer to help but since then the weather has not been very good for gardening.

As mentioned in Matters arising, Vanessa is going to try to get volunteers from the runners.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

David gave a report on the Bowling Academy now in its 4th year and expanding every year. There are now 7 teams and could be 10 by next year. There may soon be a team with average age 11 years. There is to be a Junior Lancashire County Competition where the prize will be £100 and a set of bowls. Both greens will be in use from now on. There are bookings from 6 schools and 10 applications waiting. Apparently people came from Bingley last week to play and then had a meal in the café.

The first County game was played on Sunday. The Academy played the champions Manchester and won 12-6. From now on there will be a game played every Monday afternoon.

A new initiative in conjunction with the NHS is starting on the 14th of April, called 'Bowls and a Brew'. Residents from some care homes will be brought to the park to learn to play bowls and then have a drink in the café. Congratulations to the Philip Green Academy and all the people who work so tirelessly to make it such a success.

Complaints were made about the state of the grass adjacent to the pavilion where out of town dog owners are letting their dogs out of cars to foul the area.

There was a long discussion about the possibility of the management of the park moving from Pendle Council to the Town Council. As yet we have no clarification about this but members felt that Friends Groups should be involved in the process. All members were worried about the financial implications such a move would entail. The matter is to be discussed at the next Parks Forum Meeting.

We are losing all our park keepers and will just then have Paul Underwood, Tom Partridge, Kieron and Lee.

Members are invited to the Mayor's Reception at Nelson Town Hall on April 19th. Let Julie know if you are going. We have reserved 10 places for members so far.

David thanked Brenda for the donation of plants.

It was felt that the pavilion now needed repainting.

Audrey asked for ideas re the spending of money from councillors to be discussed at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING Monday June 11th at 7pm at the Pavilion café.