

MEETING OF FRIENDS OF ALKINCOATS PARK

ON MONDAY JUNE 11TH

AT 7PM AT PAVILION CAFÉ

APOLOGIES

Phil Cowell, Carol Riley, Pat and David Clamp, Beryl Horrocks, Vanessa Hothersall, Daryl Wright, Glenda and David Clegg.

PRESENT

Christine King, Julie Hibbert, Brenda Maylor, Eileen Eve, Audrey Broughton, Marie Jackson, Colette McInerney, Marie Oakley

PREVIOUS MINUTES. These were passed.

MATTERS ARISING

HELP WITH WORK DAYS Audrey had contacted a group who were an amalgamation of churches who said they would help. A guides group had also offered to litter pick if the children could be supervised. Lord Street school and Park high school had also shown interest. Julie reminded the group to keep a record of volunteer hours as people like Christine were spending a great deal of time, particularly litter picking but not recording the time taken.

WILD FLOWER MEADOW. Marie passed on information that the soft rush would be treated 'at some point in the near future'. However members were very keen that treatment start as soon as possible, particularly as we had been having such a run of dry weather which is needed to do this. Concern was also expressed about the spread of the rush to the orchard areas which would have been expensive to plant originally, which looked lovely in Spring but which were becoming overwhelmed with weeds and rushes. Suggestions were made that maybe we could spend some of our funds on the removal of rush from the orchard areas and the mowed areas of the park. Members also felt that the paths through the meadow were a very well used feature and that the meadow itself was looking really beautiful as it is now covered in buttercups and other wild flowers.

FACEBOOK Vanessa has very kindly set up a Facebook page for the group. She asks that any photos, information about events etc be passed to her and she will post on facebook.

CIVIC RECEPTION. This was a very enjoyable evening and the group sends many thanks to David and Barbara for all their hard work and interest in the park.

BOWLING ACADEMY Unfortunately David could not give a report as he had a bowling match. However Audrey reported for him that the academy was going from strength to strength. The Bowl and Brew had gone fantastically well and there had been enquiries from The Stroke Society which hoped to do something similar. The Mothers Union were coming on Thursday this week to also have a Bowls and a Brew event and a further one planned for an evening next week.

CAFÉ'S BIRTHDAY PARTY This had been a huge success and was extremely well supported. The bowling greens were full and the café run off its feet. There was a cake tombola, a couple of bric a

brac stalls, a fudge stall, a candle stall, a car accessory stall, face painting, goat petting, and a stall with information about Pendle Dogs in Need. There should have been a Bouncy Castle but it was too windy. The event made £200, £100 went to the bowling academy and £100 to Pendle Dogs in Need.

PARKS FORUM. Audrey reported that herself and Mariel had been approached by Colin Hill who was interested to know what we thought about the state of the park and its maintenance standards. He asked for a report and then came to a meeting with a few of our members including David and Beryl. We then showed him round the park along with Eugene Dennison who took photos as we walked round. This visit was as a start to the process of Colne Town Council possibly taking over responsibility for the park from April 2019. We got the impression that Colin felt that the maintenance had not been to an acceptable standard and that there were some areas which badly needed attention. We are hoping that we may have some initial reactions from CTC by mid June, but were given to understand that no decisions one way or the other would be made until the autumn at the earliest

MONEY SAVING IDEAS. Members suggested that the annual flower beds could be replaced by perennial beds to save the yearly outgoings on bedding plants. It was also suggested that the perennials we have in the Walled Garden could be split in the Autumn to fill the empty flower bed along the wall of the garden. Members agreed that the Walled Garden looked beautiful and that the beds were all beautifully kept.

With regard to the benches the idea was put forward that maybe the wooden benches could be replaced with benches which needed less attention.

Members suggested that plants could possibly be obtained for free from The Allotment Society, Colne Horticultural Society or even from local garden centres if we did a little begging!!

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SPENDING OF MONEY

There were a number of ideas as to how funds could be spent. The possibility of having all the benches painted was discussed but it was finally decided that the outlay could take up the entirety of the money available and so this idea was dismissed. Eventually three ideas were settled on.

To try to get another sculpture done, possibly by the person who did the owl and the acorn. Otherwise Julie told us a wooden sculpture could be very expensive.

To get a specialist company to try to remove the soft rush just on the mowed area and around the orchard areas

To get paint and redecorate the pavilion.

THE MUGA The siting of the MUGA in the park brought up diverse concerns:- Whether CTC would be willing to take on the upkeep of the facility if it took over the park was questioned. Why we needed a MUGA when we had already converted a tennis court to an all weather pitch. And whether the proposed siting was the best place for it. It was pointed out that the grass football pitch where the MUGA could be sited was subject to water logging. Overall opinions were divided.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH AT 7PM AT THE PAVILION CAFÉ.