

# Friends of Ball Grove

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Minutes of Meeting held:

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Meeting began at: 1910

Present: Les Cromey, John Belbin, Jim Harrison, Jean Harrison, Gillian Laycock, Julie Mousdale, Jerry Stanford, David Storey, Clare Storey, Matt Robinson.

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

Apologies: Tony Greaves, Martin Ackroyd, Ann Waddington.

- 2.1 Minutes of Last Meeting – 13th February 2018

There were no corrections

Approval moved Les Cromey, Seconded Jean Harrison Approved.

- 2.2 Matters Arising None

3. Reports

- 3.1 Park Maintenance

The repairs/ modifications to the Top car park to prevent unauthorised access are still in hand.

Footpaths

Some of the damaged duckboards on the footpaths have been replaced or repaired.

Top Lodge

The bulrushes have spread out of control, Jerry stated that the weed killer normally used has been banned in some countries but not as yet in the UK, in any case it is only effective when the bulrushes are actually growing.

Children's Play Area

A climbing frame had to be removed due to vandalism. A question was asked about safety inspections Les will e-mail the council to ascertain the frequency of the inspections.

4. Financial Report.

Martin was not present at the meeting due to work commitments, Les read out the financial report, the balance stood at approx £4520 plus a post dated cheque from the Mayoress Charity for £1277.75.

5. External Events

LNR Steering Group - John asked about park maintenance if we made our own arrangements we would not be insured especially when using tools. It was suggested that we may be able to make more use of the Environmental Action Group (EAG) for instance maintaining and repairing the footpaths in the woods and also preparing and planting wild flowers on the pasture (which used to be rented out to a farmer) however it was pointed out that last years flooding caused severe erosion of the river bank and if left unchecked we may lose the bench.

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This is a popular area for dog walkers and apparently there are numerous holes dug by the dogs .

The Ribble rivers trust is responsible for river bank maintenance and Les will take it up with them.

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

## 6. Volunteer Activities.

6.1 Litter Picking: - This is ongoing and will continue.

6.2 Tree and Bulb Planting:-

John again pointed out that the bulbs should be a native variety and purchased from an 'approved' source if planted within the park

6.3 The next Volunteer Morning will be - TBA - Due to ongoing changes in local authority responsibilities.

Les read out a letter from Trawden Parish Council thanking the volunteers for their efforts in looking after the park.

6.4 Balsam Bashing

Himalayan Balsam is a non-native specie and spreads like wild fire, despite last years efforts to control it, pockets of Balsam are springing up in various locations round the park.

## 7. AoB

Pot holes are appearing in all the car parks and if left can only get worse.

Gillian asked about bulb planting it has been raised for the last 2 or 3 years and but not done Gillian said that we can buy a sack of bulbs at low cost and plant them in the wooden flower beds round the car park, which is not in the actual park. It was agreed to meet at Winewall Road car park on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 1.00-1.15 pm for a weeding and preparation day ready for bulb planting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Matt said that another post has been removed from the top car park allowing unauthorised vehicle access, David mentioned that Barry Hodgson had already offered his assistance in placing large boulders in the gaps to prevent this happening.

The lock on the top car park barrier has been broken and repairs to the actual barrier are needed Matt offered to do this work.

The new Mayors tour of the local parks is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> September at 10.20 -10.45 am at Winewall Road car park.

The meeting ended at 20.00

The next FOBG meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

Forum : ??

LNR Steering Group : TBA