

MEETING OF FRIENDS OF ALKINCOATS PARK

MONDAY NOVEMBER 12TH 2018

AT 7PM AT PAVILION CAFÉ

APOLOGIES:- Leroy Philbrook, Vanessa Hothersall, Mary Thomas

PRESENT:- Marie Oakley, Brenda Maylor, Carole Riley, Christine King, David Clamp, Pat Clamp, Marie Jackson, Glenda Clegg, David Clegg, Colette McInerney, Stephen Clamp, Audrey Broughton, Julie Mousedale.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:- These were passed as being correct.

MATTERS ARISING:- We were told that all the bank books were now back from audit and that the present amount in the Group's account was £2,500, with £80 to be deducted for the two new bird tables.

THE MUGA. We were informed that the MUGA is to be sited at the side of the tennis courts as has been discussed with the Friends group. We now have to wait for Planning Permission and for the Policy and Resources meeting to allocate the extra funding which will be needed.

Members agreed that the squirrel sculpture was smaller than expected, but children liked it as they could stroke it! Overall everyone was happy with it

Two new bird tables are hopefully being installed next week between the perennial beds and the trees, roughly opposite the squirrel, on the way up to the bandstand.

Over 600 daffodil and tulip bulbs have been planted in the perennial beds. These were planted by Marie Jackson, Audrey, Brenda, Carole and her grand daughter Demi, Councillor Victoria Fletcher and Alice and a group of Girl Guides.

The Group expressed disappointment at the Mayor's Tour of the Park as he did not want to look round the park but just sat on the pavilion and had a cup of coffee. Members who were waiting at the Secret garden felt particularly let down.

We are told that the park benches will all be taken away, repaired and repainted this Winter ready for the Spring.

Complaints were made about the benches installed around the Bowling Greens as there is only access to them through the flower bedsDavid is going to sort this out. He is also waiting for the colours to paint other benches installed by the Bowling Academy.

Questions were asked as to whether the Wildflower Meadow is still under council maintenance as nothing is being done about the orchards and the removal of the soft rush.....or the meadow in general, other than one mowing, but the grass and seeds were not removed.

ORIENTEERING GROUP This group loved the park, made no mess and have asked to come again. They would also like to go through the Nature Reserve. They will have to keep to the paths and apply to Julie for permission. They also expressed an interest in visiting the Café.

LITTLE LANTERN WALK. This was said to have been amazing. Lanterns were made by children from all Colne Schools and they were on target to make approx. £10,000 for Cancer Research. Thanks were sent to all who helped with the event

AWARDS Five members went to Southport to the NW in Bloom awards. An award went to The Bowling Academy and one to The Secret Garden. Members who went thought we could have submitted more photos of the park and said it was obvious that some parks had much more money spent on them than ours did.

AOB

TREE PLANTING Andrew Stephenson and Joe Cooney planted 5 trees (whips) at the top of the park . Members who attended were surprised that the whips were so small.

There was a short discussion as to what projects might be undertaken next year with the Groups money. A feature at the entrance to the park was suggested as was trying to renovate the orchard areas and the Secret Garden. There was also a suggestion to develop an arboretum at the top of the park. No decisions were made.

Members also talked about getting further funding. It was suggested we contact Bryan Lloyd as his company use the park entrance to photograph their cars. Marie Oakley to try to contact him. The group also felt we should try to get sponsorship from other local businesses

As Kieron had asked for any ideas re an ACTION Plan for next Years Green Flag award, members discussed this and the consensus of opinion was that no plans could be made as no-one knew what was going to happen to the park regarding the possible take over by CTC. The feeling was that basic maintenance should be the main action plan.

Re the possible take over of CTC... we were told that this could happen in April next year. Leroy is looking to get together a working group to include one member from the Bowling academy and one from the group in general. Daryl and Audrey were suggested as representatives

NEXT MEETING MONDAY FEBRUARY 25TH