

Friends of Ball Grove

Minutes of Meeting held on:

Tuesday 12th February 2019 at the Cotton Tree Inn.

Meeting began at: 19.10

Present: Les Cromey, John Belbin, Jim Harrison, Jean Harrison, Gillian Laycock, Julie Mousdale, Jerry Stanford, David Storey, Clare Storey, Muhammad Bari, Andy Robertson, Ann Waddington, Martin Ackroyd.

1. The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for their attendance; Apologies: Tony Greaves, Michelle Plimley.
- 2.1 Minutes of Last Meeting – 11th September 2018
There were no corrections
Approval moved Les Cromey, Seconded Jean Harrison Approved.
- 2.2 Matters Arising:-
Extra posts have been erected at the top car park perimeter to deter unauthorised access.
Some damaged duckboards have been replaced on the footpaths.
Some new equipment funded by Pendle council/ Lady Mayoress Charity/ FOBG has been purchased to replace the vandalised climbing frame in the childrens' play area and should be installed March or April time.
3. Reports
 - 3.1 Park Maintenance
The resurfacing of the road at the entrance to the Winewall car park has been completed however there are signs that it is already starting to be eroded- possibly because it has been put back into use too quickly, before it has had time to set properly.
Footpaths
On the higher footpath round the top lodge there are at least two damaged duckboards that are dangerous and need replacing.
Top Lodge
The bulrushes still need to be controlled; in particular the area round the dipping platform needs to be kept clear. .

Children's Play Area
A climbing frame had to be removed due to vandalism. A question was asked about safety inspections Les contacted the council and ascertained that this area is inspected on a weekly basis.
4. Financial Report.
Martin reported that there had been no financial activity since the last meeting and the balance stood at £5786.00 however we are still liable for our share of the purchase price for the childrens playground equipment. .
5. External Events
LNR Steering Group - John reported that the LNRs are under the control of Pendle Council but there is no budget allocation at the moment, Philip Mousdale is trying to get a councillor to attend the meetings. Julie said that there is a restructuring of the whole parks department taking place, her

Friends of Ball Grove

role is changing and she will no longer be able to attend the FOBG meetings, Kieron will prepare a report for us prior to our meetings.

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

6. Volunteer Activities.

6.1 Litter Picking: - This is ongoing and will continue but Les thought that we need the appropriate equipment eg bags, gloves, hi-vis bibs, litter pickers etc. Julie mentioned that this could be supplied by the council from the Fleet Street depot.

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. Gillian organised a weeding and bulb planting event at the Winewall Road car park in September 2018 this was very successful and the green shoots are already showing.

6.3 Volunteer Working Days.

Due to ongoing changes in local authority responsibilities it is still proving to be difficult to organise working days due to lack of tools, storage facilities and insurance problems.

It was asked if it would be possible for a council workman to attend the working day bringing the necessary tools and equipment and this would also cover the insurance for the volunteers. This would only be for a two hour session once a month and we would be prepared to cover his wages out of club funds.

Dave Storey mentioned that Trawden Parish Council already had a lengthsmen who did various jobs around the parish and he would check to see if it was possible to come to a joint agreement.

7. AoB

It was asked if anyone had any suggestions for recruiting younger volunteers since we are all getting on a bit, however it was pointed out that most similar groups are facing the same problem.

Muhammad asked if anyone objected to him removing a large tree from the bottom of his garden which had fallen across his fence, nobody objected and Les gave him approval to get a tree surgeon in to remove this particular tree.

It was reported that the path from the tram track upto Ball Grove Drive, behind LBS is very steep and dangerous particularly in snow and ice and would be safer if a hand rail could be installed. It was pointed out that this is not a public footpath and there is no funding for it, Jean asked what had happened to the hand rail that had been taken up recently from the car park near the café.

It was brought to the attention of the meeting that a car had been seen loitering near the top car park with possibly drug dealing occurring Jerry is to contact the relevant police authorities.

Friends of Ball Grove

This is Julies last FOBG meeting and she will be sorely missed we owe her a huge vote of thanks for her help and support over the years and an informal invitation was extended to her to visit us whenever she could.

The meeting ended at 20.15

The next FOBG meeting will be our AGM on 14th May 2019.

LNR Steering Group: 12th March 2019 at Nelson Town Hall