

# Friends of Ball Grove

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## Minutes of Meeting held on:

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at the Cotton Tree Inn.

Meeting began at: 19.05

Present: Les Cromeey, John Belbin, Jim Harrison, Jean Harrison, Gillian Laycock, Ann Waddington, Sarah Cockburn-Price, Ken Hartley (Mayor) Patricia Judson.

1. The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for their attendance;  
Apologies: Matthew Robinson, Simon Reed, Martin Ackroyd, Tony Greaves, Muhammad Bari, Dave Storey, Clare Storey.

The Chairman introduced the Mayor- Ken Hartley, thanked him for coming and invited him to address the meeting.

Mr Hartley started by indicating that anything he said were his own personally held opinions. He firstly would like to say a 'big, big thankyou to all the Friends Groups who gave up their time to look after the various parks, green spaces are very important for the health and wellbeing of our communities. He spoke passionately about the recent Britain in Bloom when the North West area were awarded more Gold medals than any other area and he thought that we should be planting more trees in tandem with the Northern Forest project which is intending to 're-forest' a 120 mile swathe of Northern England from Liverpool to Hull.

### 2.1 Minutes of Last Meeting – 12th February 2019

There were no corrections

Approval moved John Belbin, Seconded Ann Waddington                      Approved.

### 2.2 Matters Arising:-

Extra posts have been erected at the top car park perimeter to deter unauthorised access.

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 is being well used particularly by the younger children.

### 3. Reports

#### 3.1 Park Maintenance

It was reported that the rubbish bins are now being emptied three times a week.

Footpaths –Recently some damaged duckboards have been replaced on the footpaths, however further damage has occurred and several more need repair or replacement, also the anti-slip wire mesh needs repair or replacement.

Top Lodge

The bulrushes still need to be controlled; in particular the area round the dipping platform needs to be kept clear.

Dog Fouling It was reported that a dog walker has been fined TWICE for not picking up after her dog.

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3.2 Barrier Key Box missing and Locks appear to be stolen on a regular basis. Have the police been informed?  
Kieran is consulting with appropriate suppliers to get an estimate of the cost to change the barrier to an electronic system operated by push button fob from within the car.

### 4. Financial Report.

Martin was unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments his report was read out by the Chairman indicating that there had been no financial activity since the AGM on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

### 5. External Events

LNR Steering Group - There did not seem to be anything relevant to Ball Grove, we understand that Kieran will keep us informed of any other changes.

### 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. this could be supplied by the council from the Fleet Street depot.

6.2 Tree and Bulb Planting:- Gillian mentioned that the newly planted flower beds at the Winewall car park are getting well established but could do with a little weeding.

Jean mentioned that the two wild flower beds near to the flag pole are now overgrown with thistles and look a bit of an eyesore and would be better if mown down and turned back to grass,

### 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. We understand that we are insured if we notify the council prior to the work day.

### 7. AoB

It was again 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.

Some young people have been observed jumping from trees into the river and there are concerns for their safety particularly when the river is low.

Someone has created vehicular access to the top car park by cutting down one of the wooden barrier posts.

John mentioned that he was leading a walk from Ball Grove café at 11.00am on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and all are welcome.

It was suggested that we should be represented at Trawden Parish Council (TPC) meetings since they are to be responsible for the funding of Ball Grove Park in the future. The next meeting of TPC is on the first Monday in September at Trawden Community Centre at 7.00 pm and we understand it is open to the public.

The meeting ended at 20.12pm

The next FOBG meeting will be on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019

LNR Steering Group: TBA