

MINUTES OF MEETING OF FRIENDS OF ALKINCOATS PARK

MONDAY NOVEMBER 4TH AT 7PM AT PAVILION CAFÉ

APOLOGIES

Marie Oakley, Colette McInerney, Daryl Wright

PRESENT

David Clegg, Glenda Clegg, Daisy Eve, Pat Clamp, Eileen Eve, Carol Riley, Ailsa Gill PCSO 7530, Liz Hurley, Christine King, Stephen Clamp, David Clamp, Mary Thomas

RESIGNATION. David Clamp welcomed everyone to the meeting and began by making everyone aware that the Secretary had received a letter of resignation from Audrey. For the meeting, he would take the chair and Stephen Clamp would take minutes in Marie's absence. A discussion was held to thank Audrey for her involvement over the years (which was believed to be in excess of 25 years). It was proposed and passed that the Secretary should purchase a meal voucher to the value of £50 (Craven Heifer, Kelbrook) as a 'Thank You' gift from the Friends of Alkincoats.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING. These were passed as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING. A discussion was held with regards to bins being located in or around the MUGA area. Three bins have been installed over the last few days and are now in use.

SIGNING PARK OVER. David Clegg advised that Colne Town Council (CTC) are very close to completing the signing over of the park from Pendle Borough Council (PBC) with a final completion date of 01/01/2020 being proposed. David advised that funds of £31,140 were paid by CTC to PBC on 01/11/2019 for work previously completed and invoices have been raised for the remaining work to be done by the end of the year. These payments enable CTC to complete the signing at any day.

David made the group aware of an outstanding issue with regards to the new build properties on Haverholt Close. The builders originally applied to PBC to temporarily 'move' the boundary fence to allow for an inspection. PBC issued an 'easement' payment request for £5,000 but the builders have not paid it. On top of this, the builders have then broken their planning permission by connecting their sewer drains (also without approval from United Utilities) to the drain running down that area of the park. CTC have been advised that there is no legal issue proceeding with the transfer of ownership for Alkincoats Park due to this (even though there is a liability risk for the drain connection) and Philip Maudsley has agreed that PBC staff would complete any required legal paperwork against the builder if required. David believes that the likely outcome would be that PBC demand the easement payment from the builder and, if not paid, that either the drains would be removed or, in a final outcome, the properties would be demolished.

The necessity to complete with this on-going issue is due to tender approvals for the park (which would be due to expire in approximately two weeks' time) and the need to re-complete all of those.

TENDERS FOR WORK/PWCGBA LEASE. David Clamp gave the group an update of the current tender situations. The tender for all grassed areas within the park has been awarded to a local Colne company (Unit Clean) who already hold several council tenders across Lancashire, rather than to PBC. As part of their tender, the removal of all grass cuttings was included. The company have also agreed to have representation at both CTC and CTC Park Working Group to ensure acceptable results are achieved.

David Clegg confirmed that there is still work to be completed in several areas of the park prior to the end of 2019. David also made the group aware of a new reporting process for either work that is required or for work that is unsatisfactory. Eugene Dennison will assume the role of Client Officer for CTC (David to circulate contact details via Secretary) and all contact must be made through him to enable improved budget and standards controls.

PWCGBA is now in a position to accept the lease for the Pavilion area of the park (upon completion of CTC transfer of ownership). The lease will be for 25 years (and 3 months) with a token rent and an approved tender of works that is reviewed/recalculated every 5 years.

TARMAC FOOTBALL PITCH. The small football pitch above the tennis courts has now been given a tarmac finish to enable year-round all-weather play. After a design issue (no drainage to prevent flooding), drains have been installed and will be monitored to ensure that they are fit-for-purpose.

A question was raised about lowering the hedge height around the area to prevent the risk of bullying and/or drug use. The area is to be reviewed prior to a decision being made. The Police will also highlight the area and add it as part of their patrol of the park.

MUGA. The MUGA has now been installed onto the end of the tennis court area and is a valued addition to the facilities. However, as with the tarmac football pitch, a design issue by PBC has caused issues for disabled access to the area. This is currently being resolved by PBC (at their cost).

David Clegg made the group aware that a complaint had been received regarding disabled and/or pram access to the MUGA entrance. David felt that CTC would need to review insurance requirements for prams but agreed that the MUGA needs to be accessible for disabled users.

David Clegg also made the group aware that CTC had enough money, available as a grant, for 360 degree CCTV to be installed at the MUGA. This would provide permanent CCTV coverage (linked to Colne town centre CCTV) for the MUGA, tarmac football pitch, bowling greens, tennis courts and pavilion. Funding would cover the equipment costs but David Clamp and himself would need to request additional funding for installation and on-going electricity costs. The Police would support the plan for the CCTV for monitoring

PARK HIGH SCHOOL. A letter has been received from Park High School (via PBC) with regards to school children volunteering in the park. PBC have indicated that two dates prior to the end of 2019 would be done in Alkincoats Park with future dates done in PBC-owned parks. The Friends Group recommended that CTC write directly to Park High School (as new owners of the park) to offer volunteering projects within the park (ideas were indicated such as having their own flower beds in the bandstand). David Clegg to instruct CTC to send the letter.

CAFÉ NEWS & AWARD. Daisy informed the group that Eileen has been awarded the Mayor's Commendation Award for the Pavilion Café. Everyone congratulated Eileen on her success with the award. There are several upcoming events at the café. These include Xmas lunches and Xmas afternoon teas. Eileen and Daisy are also in the process of arranging a 'Rewarding a Volunteer' event where people can nominate volunteers to receive a free meal at the café (Eileen is providing the food free of charge and the staff are working free for the afternoon). Nominations are currently being received and contacted.

BOWLING ACADEMY. David reported that the bowling academy had had a very successful season in all leagues. Club Championship was held in September and was exceptionally well supported with 48 entrants. David thanked the café for their entrants and for adding to the success of the event. The overall competition was won by Stephen Clamp, with Glyn Dawson winning the supplementary event.

The success of the day was summed up very well by one member who said “we’ve had teams playing here for 5 years but today we’ve become a club”.

The bowling greens were also used in September as a venue for the Lancashire Ladies County Association for their team event. This has already been booked for 2020 as they were so impressed with the venue as a whole.

Over the next couple of months, the Joan Bannister Memorial Garden will be completed on the edge of Green 1.

In March 2020, the PWCGBA will be hosting a very large singles competition featuring most of the best players from across the UK. This will take place on 14th/15th March with the finals day on the 21st. Players will be competing for a prize fund of well in excess of £3,000.

Stephen is currently working with several schools sports partnerships with an aim to get local schools to add bowls to the sports curriculum. Burnley are being used as a test area and, if some additional trials work next year, this could be rolled out across Lancashire.

The Academy has its first end of season presentation night on Saturday 9th November at Colne & Nelson Rugby Club.

COLNE IN BLOOM - PLANTS & COMPOSTING. David Clamp made the group aware that both plants and compost was now being donated to the Friends of Alkincoats by Colne in Bloom. This was a great step forward and prevented the waste of resources that had taken place in previous years.

AOB. Carol advised the group that an invitation had been received for 2 members of the Friends of Alkincoats to attend the Environmental Awards at Colne Town Hall on the 13th November, 2019. Following discussions, Marie and David Clamp to attend.

The quad bike issue has been reported to the Police by Daryl. Investigations are being done to identify the owner and the Police have asked if the person is seen again, to contact the Police immediately to see if they can attend at the time.

David Clegg suggested to run the next meeting with David Clamp running the meeting as Vice Chairman (current position) and then roles to be reviewed at the AGM. David highlighted that there may be an issue going forwards with David Clamp being the Chairman of CTC Park Working Committee and the Friends of Alkincoats Group. This was agreed acceptable until the AGM but will then be reviewed to prevent any conflict of interests.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING MONDAY 3rd FEBRUARY, 2020 AT 7PM AT PAVILION CAFÉ.