

Friends of Ball Grove

Minutes of Meeting held on:

Tuesday 12th November 2019 at the Cotton Tree Inn.

Meeting began at: 19.05

Present: Les Cromeey, Jim Harrison, Jean Harrison, Ann Waddington, Craig McBeth, David Storey, Clare Storey.

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

Apologies: Matthew Robinson, Martin Ackroyd, Sarah Cockburn-Price, Gillian Laycock.

2.1 Minutes of Last Meeting – 13th August 2019

There were no corrections

Approval moved Jean Harrison, Seconded Ann Waddington Approved.

2.2 Matters Arising:-

It was reported that Mayor Hartley, who attended our last meeting was very keen on tree planting and it was suggested that we could support his aims by planting some trees in the boggy area of the picnic field and at the same time this could help to dry out this area. Les said he will seek advice from Kieron as to the best trees for this area.

3. Reports

Les reported that he had attended the last Trawden Parish Council meeting to show his support and cooperation.

3.1 Park Maintenance

Footpaths –The two broken duckboards recently reported have been replaced on the footbridge at the top lodge and the handrail has been repaired, however the anti-slip wire mesh needs repair or replacement in several places.

The footpath round the bottom lodge has been upgraded to address the concerns highlighted in the recent Green Flag report, however it was reported that the heavy rain has caused some erosion already.

Top Lodge

The bulrushes still need to be controlled; in particular the area round the dipping platform which dried out in summer and the tree seeds have germinated and could potentially become a small forest.

3.2 Barrier at Winewall carpark.

Key Box missing. Barrier frequently left open/unlocked an open invitation to Travellers, drug dealers and vandals.

Kieron in consultation with appropriate suppliers gave an estimate of the cost to change the barrier to an electronic system operated by mobile phone as £8300. There followed a discussion about who should pay if this system were to be implemented the best estimate if all parties concerned were to contribute would leave a shortfall of £2-3000.

When put to a vote there was a unanimous show of hands that we should wait and see what, if anything, transpires in the future.

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Top Car park

It was reported that the gate has been repaired and the two sections have been realigned and can now be locked.

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 last meeting on 13th August 2019.

Les reported that Sarah would need to be reimbursed for the fee she had paid £129.00 for our website which covers us for two years.

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 managed to obtain a supply of daffodil bulbs which were planted on the picnic field by a team of volunteers on 30th October.

Jean again 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.

It was mentioned that pupils from Park High will be volunteering at various local parks and we are scheduled for 2 days next year, 1 in March and 1 in May.

Jean wondered about health and safety and insurance issues.

7. AoB

It was brought to our attention that that Mr XXXXXX wanted to buy the land near to his house but his offer was rejected as this was park land for the benefit of the whole community and therefore was not for sale.

It was asked if anyone had heard the noise from night time parties in LBS recently and nobody had.

It was reported that there was damage to the perimeter fence round the children's' playground and there were some holes in the LBS fence.

Trawden Parish council want to erect a notice board at the Winewall car park there were no objections.

The meeting ended at 20.00pm

The next FOBG meeting will be on second Tuesday in February 2020.

LNR Steering Group: TBA