

Friends of Ball Grove

Minutes of Meeting held on:

Tuesday 11th February 2020 at the Cotton Tree Inn.

Meeting began at: 19.05

Present: Les Cromeey, Jim Harrison, Jean Harrison, Ann Waddington, Martin Ackroyd, David Storey, Clare Storey, Jerry Stanford, Ben Harrison, Marilyn Hodge.

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

Apologies: John Belbin, Sarah Cockburn-Price, Gillian Laycock, Simon Reed, Tony Greaves, Andy Robinson.

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:-

For the benefit of the new members Les mentioned Mayor Hartley, had attended our August meeting and 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 is waiting for advice from Kieron as to the best trees for this area and will also look into the suggestion that some trees may be available free of charge.

Ben said that he would be up for tree planting just let him know when it was arranged.

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 – On the path alongside LBS fence and Winewall car park Ann found some used needles but thanks to her medical background was able to dispose of them safely.

Les emphasised that if anyone found such items they should report them and not handle them unless they had suitable medical training.

Ann also noticed holes in the LBS fence.

The erosion on the new footpath round the bottom lodge has been alleviated by the construction of a drainage channel along side the path.

Top Lodge

The path around the Top Lodge has been badly eroded by Storm Ciara in several places down to the black membrane and needs repair.

Some broken duckboards recently reported have been

replaced, Martin had noticed that some of the duckboards were of varying thickness and were a potential trip hazard and asked Why?

It was pointed out that these were replaced at different times by different people who had used whatever duckboards they could get at the time.

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The anti-slip wire mesh needs repair or replacement in several places, however there seemed to be some confusion as to the exact locations, Jean suggested that the bridges and duckboards could be given a number to help avoid confusion. Jerry thought that this was a good idea and ceramic numbers could be easily attached at very little cost.

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.

The barrier which had been lifted off its hinges and damaged has been replaced and washers welded on to the hinges to deter similar vandalism in future.

For the benefit of our new members Les gave a brief history of this particular barrier:-

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

Kieran 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. This seemed expensive and rather impractical as it would only benefit the occupants of Spring Grove.

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.

Top Car park

It was reported that the gate has been regularly locked by the key holders who deserve our grateful thanks.

4. Financial Report.

Martin presented his report showing that there had been one debit and deposit since our November meeting and the balance is now £5,584.18.

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. The Forum has been discontinued.

6. Volunteer Activities.

6.1 Litter Picking: - This is ongoing and will continue.

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 2019 these are now showing through.

Ben is interested in tree planting but may prefer weekends/evenings due to work commitments.

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, we may also need to do a risk assessment as well.

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It was again mentioned that pupils from Park High will be volunteering at various local parks and we are scheduled for 2 days this year, the first on 10th March 2020 and another in May, these will be supervised by Lee and Kieron and will probably be during school hours possibly 10- 300pm.

7. AoB

Trawden Parish council who will eventually take over the management of Ball Grove park have erected a notice board at Winewall car park to keep us informed of local events.

Dave and Clare mentioned that Trawden Council will then take over various duties such as grass cutting etc and be responsible for the building which houses the Lakeside Café and there will be storage space for tools etc for use on Volunteer days, it is still unclear who will be responsible for the Top car park.

Jerry mentioned that Inspector Scott Boast of Pendle Police will be looking after local security matters and Jerry will inform him of the finding of the drug needles on the park.

The meeting ended at 19.50pm

The next FOBG meeting will be our AGM on Tuesday 12th May 2020.

LNR Steering Group: 10th March 2020