

Friends of Ball Grove

Minutes of Meeting held on:

Monday 18th October 2020 at the Cotton Tree Inn.

Meeting began at: 19.03

Present: Les Cromeey, Jim Harrison, Jean Harrison, Ann Waddington, Martin Ackroyd, Jerry Stanford, S.E Cockburn-Price, Mel Henley, Tracey Bolton & Dexter, Daniel Whillock, Phil Riley, Gillian B Laycock, Barry Hodgson.

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

Apologies: John Belbin, Marilyn Hodge .

- 2.1 Minutes of Last Meeting – 11th February 2020.

There were no corrections

Approval moved Jerry Stanford, Seconded Jean Harrison, Approved.

- 2.2 Matters Arising:-
None.

3. Reports

- 3.1 Park Maintenance

Top Lodge footpath.

The duckboards on the path around the Top Lodge need the anti-slip wire mesh repaired or replaced in several places.

Phil pointed out that the wooden duckboards are prone to rotting down and that there are more durable materials available which could also be used to replace the dipping platform in the 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 have become a small forest.

- 3.2 Barrier at Winewall car park and Future Security.

The barrier has been removed due to a legal requirement to give unrestricted access to the White House residents. This has unfortunately given unrestricted access to Joy Riders, Travellers, Drug Dealers etc. The council have tried to alleviate some of the unwanted consequences by erecting fences and deploying large boulders to deter Travellers and illegal parking near the children's playground, however the general feeling of those present was that it has not gone far enough. Sarah suggested that a grant may be available to plant a line of trees along the grass verge between the playground and the river and possibly install a couple of park benches as well, this will block unwanted parking in this area.

Les said that there is no indication that vehicles are not allowed and that there should be a sign to say that unauthorised vehicles are not allowed.

From the safety point of view Jerry said that there is nothing to stop somebody driving upto the children's playground and bundling a child into their car and abducting them.

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- 3.2 Top Car park
It was pointed out that the top part of the car park is in Colne and the bottom part is in Trawden and that Business Rates could be charged on car parks, Les said if we were to be charged business rates we would have to charge the council for the services of our key holders who have regularly locked and unlocked the car park gates for sometime and deserve our grateful thanks.
4. Financial Report.
Martin presented his report showing that the balance is now £6,476.
5. External Events
LNR Steering Group - There did not seem to be anything relevant to Ball Grove,
The Forum has been discontinued.
6. Volunteer Activities.
- 6.1 Litter Picking: -This is ongoing and will continue, Phil had already arranged a litter pick for the following day 19th October 2021- meeting at 10.00am at the Cafe.
- 6.2 Tree and Bulb Planting:-
It was mentioned that pre-pandemic Lee was arranging the purchase of some trees for planting in the park this had been cancelled due to Covid, it was suggested that this could be revisited for the suggested line of trees between the playground and the river.
- 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. It was suggested that the old EAG premises adjacent to the Café could be utilised, however Tracey was interested in that area as well it was agreed that there should be a meeting between all interested parties i.e.Sarah, Tracey, FOBG, and Trawden Parish Council to agree the way forward.
7. AoB
Martin mentioned that two anglers have been observed doing some night fishing which is prohibited the signs are not very obvious. Les emphasised that we should not tackle wrongdoers on our own, but should ring the police.
Jerry said to ring 999 there is a quicker response than other emergency numbers, if possible take photos of cars and number plates etc and if you wanted to remain anonymous you could ring Jerry on 07979906975 and he will take the appropriate actions.
Les said that he had recently seen a fish in the river for the first time, Jean mentioned that she had regularly seen trout in the river but they are well camouflaged and had also seen Cray fish.
Phil mentioned that the river through Lomeshaye has recently been renovated to allow fish to migrate up the river.

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Mel drew our attention to the fact that there appeared to be a large number of Ash trees suffering from 'Ash dye-back' in the nature reserve and that there was a large specimen in his backyard which would need felling as it could endanger his house and occupants if left unchecked. Phil mentioned that the policy is to fell ash trees close to houses and buildings etc but to leave the ones in the woods.

Mel said that he will replace the one that he is removing with either a beech or an oak as he is growing several in his new 'polytunnel'.

Mel said that if you notice any building work going on, he is moving his conservatory from the front of the White House to the back. He also mentioned the state of the track to his house which is full of potholes, ruts and nettles making driving difficult especially when there are pedestrians there, who cannot be expected to move out of the way due to the nettles. Les said that a pedestrian had been sworn at by a car driver because she could not move out of his way because of the nettles. Mel said he was prepared to trim the nettles and if some hard core could be provided he would fill the potholes himself. A comment was made not make the surface too smooth as the uneven nature of the road deters motorists from speeding.

The meeting ended at 20.30pm

The next FOBG meeting will be on:

Monday 7th February 2022 in the Cotton Tree Inn at 7.00pm.