

Friends of Ball Grove

Minutes of Meeting held on:

Monday 7th February 2022 at the Cotton Tree Inn.

Meeting began at: 19.03

Present: Les Cromeey, Jim Harrison, Jean Harrison, Ann Waddington, Martin Ackroyd, Mel Henley, Phil Riley, Gillian B Laycock.

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

Apologies: John Belbin, Clare Storey, Dave Storey, Sarah Cockburn-Price, Adele Waddington, Jerry Stanford.

2.1 Minutes of Last Meeting – 11th February 2020.

There were no corrections

Approval moved Les Cromeey, Seconded Jean Harrison, Approved.

2.2 Matters Arising:-

As reported at the meeting in October some of the duckboards and anti-slip wire mesh on the paths around the top lodge are now desperately in need of repair Ann said that she had tripped on some loose wire Phil mentioned that there are plans to replace at least three of the sections of duckboards in the very near future.

Les has secured some funding for tree planting and six trees have been purchased and planted in the wet area of the picnic field, which should help this area to dry out.

3.1 Park Maintenance

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. Phil is hoping to dig out the accumulation of sediment that has built up over the years which ideally needs a mechanical digger but there are restrictions on access to this area for a digger. Martin highlighted the fact that the bottom of this lodge was actually paved and could cause problems.

Les asked about the proposed new path across the pasture field Phil replied that it was still on the cards and was to be funded by the River Authority and we may be able to get whoever is contracted to do this work to also quote for digging out the top lodge-as they would already be on site.

Phil has already carried out work on trees in the park that needed removing or pruning out runners and suckers round the base of other trees.

When families park their cars on the top car park the slope down to the Café is causing problems particularly for prams and push chairs and could be dangerous in icy conditions it has been asked if anything could be done to alleviate this problem? Phil agreed to look into this when they fill the potholes in the near future.

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- 3.2 Barrier at Winewall car park and Future Security.
It was reported that removal of the barrier has already resulted in unauthorised access of Quad bike racers on the pasture field. The new gate at the entrance to the pasture field has no means of being locked, Phil suggested that he could arrange for a lock and chain and to see if that would deter the Quad bikers, Mel said a spare key could be left at Riverside Cottage for legitimate users or in case of emergency.
4. Financial Report.
Martin presented his financial report showing that the balance now stands at £6,371.78.
We are also expecting a further £5K from Lee Duerden in April.
5. External Events
None.
6. Volunteer Activities.
- 6.1 Litter Picking: -This is ongoing and will continue. There are a number of unsightly tree guards in the wooded areas that need removing
- 6.2 Tree and Bulb Planting:-
Apart from the 6 trees already mentioned no others have been planted but volunteers have pruned, weeded and generally tidied up the gardens at the Winewall Road entrance.
- 6.3 Volunteer Working Days.
Phil brought to our attention two volunteer days for tree planting, on Sunday 13th February and Friday 25th February at the bottom of Clarence Street near to Colne Cemetery. The area has already been cleared by volunteers, including our MP Andrew Stephenson.
7. AoB
Mel raised the condition of the track between the bottom lodge and the river which has deteriorated recently, there are a lot of potholes and due to recent removal of mud and sediment from the drainage ditch which had been deposited along side of the track, vehicles using the track have spread the mud all over.
Mel was also concerned about the future maintenance of the track to his house and has been in talks with the council and his neighbour regarding costs etc.
There followed a lively discussion mainly concerning the change of responsibility for Ball Grove Park to Trawden Parish council.

The meeting ended at 20.30pm

The next FOBG meeting will be our AGM on:

Monday 23rd May 2022 in the Cotton Tree Inn at 7.00pm.