



Friends of Murray Park

**Notes of AGM held at 6:45pm on 31 October 2019
At Murrayside Community Centre, Nacton Road, Ipswich.**

Present:

Officers: Sue Bird (Chair)
Ian Hardwick (Secretary)
Lesley Fayers (Treasurer)

Members: Malcolm Ebbs Jenny Ebbs
Stephen Wright Tracy Rowe
Dennis Carpenter Stephen Wright

Councillors: Cllr Luke Richardson

Also present: Nick Wilcox from IBC

Apologies: Cllr Sarah Barber, Bev Stratton

1. Minutes of last meeting

Meeting minutes were deemed acceptable.

2. Excluded People

There were no excluded people.

3. Matters Arising

Action

a) Toilets

NW informed members that the toilets will remain open for the time being, while it is established what the general public think should be done with them and why – whether they should be refurbished, possibly removing the privacy wall, or completely demolished and rebuilt. IBC are also looking at how much the toilets are used and/or misused.

The consensus within the group is to have the block refurbished, primarily because this would be much cheaper, although some thought it should be bulldozed and not replaced.

TR said that a number of members of the public (along with some members of the group) have said they feel that money would be better spent on shelters and/or new play equipment in the park, as some are more than 30 years old.

TR said the group's Facebook page is growing, and it was suggested a survey could be carried out on the Facebook page and/or SurveyMonkey and using leaflets about what other people think should happen to the toilet block.

TR

TR and the Chair agreed to get together some time over the next few weeks to work out some wording for a leaflet to be delivered to residents in close proximity to the park.

TR/Chair

Cllr Richardson also volunteered to carry out consultations whilst campaigning in the run up to the election on 12 December.

b) Wildlife area

The group expressed their appreciation and gratitude to IH for spending so much time picking up an enormous amount of litter lately in the wildlife area – including a bucket containing an awful, foul-smelling sludge!

It was noted that the centre of the area was recently mown flat, and IH had also cut the remaining stalks around the edge down to completely flatten the entire area. It is hoped that less litter will be dumped now that this has been done, as it makes it more visible.

c) General

Ideas were shared between the group about how a path could be laid in the area.

TR expressed appreciation for the gym equipment having been installed, and says she has seen people using it. It has also been observed that there is a notice up at a nearby gym, suggesting this equipment would be a good for a warm-up before a session in the gym.

Other members of the group also expressed their appreciation for all the work TR does for the benefit of the park.

TR also said she will try to confirm who the contact in IBC's parks department is now, as it appears ST is no longer in this position.

LF mentioned a tree in the park appears to be dying, possibly having been burned, Cllr Richardson said he is aware of a tree in nearby Ransome Road being in need of some attention, so he said he will ask for this one to be looked at too.

NW said anti-social behaviour may be involved in this, and said he will look into some guards being placed around at least some trees, as the trees provide shelter and shade.

Some people have also said they are thankful that new surfacing has been laid around the new baby swings, and NW said more can be laid if required, as IBC will happily support this.

It was also noted that part of one of the tables in the picnic area has been burned. The Chair believes that this was done earlier in the summer by the local man who is known to be mentally ill and who often frequents the park.

ME also said he has found that two benches adjacent to King Edward Road have been bent backwards, subsequently repaired, and then bent back again.

It has been observed that football groups continue to leave bottles and other litter on the park after their sessions at weekends – some have been asked to pick it up and take it with them. Cllr Richardson said he will ask whether this can be policed more effectively.

Cllr Richardson agreed to investigate as to whether the play area can be fenced off or even upgraded, in consultation with local nurseries/playgroups etc.

He also suggested The Greenways Project and/or the Ravenswood Wildlife association may be worth approaching about natural developments, and it was agreed that members are welcome to undertake some planting themselves.

It was made known that some members of the public have made negative comments about the park, but it is felt that the majority of people are positive about developments.

TR said she will email Christina Lewis at Endeavour House about connections with local primary schools, their EYFS staff in particular, about engagement with the public about litter and cleanliness on the park in terms of creating posters about this, and possibly a planting project around the park in the spring.

4. Election of Officers

Officers were appointed as follows.

		<u>Nominated</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Chair	Sue Bird	T Rowe	M Ebbs
Vice Chairman	G Thimblethorpe	S Bird	L Fayers
Treasurer	Lesley Fayers	S Wright	M Ebbs
Secretary	Ian Hardwick	S Bird	T Rowe

5. Mission Statement

A copy of the existing Mission Statement was distributed to all members present, as a starting point on what to work on in the future. By far the majority of the work on the original Mission Statement has been completed. The Chair suggested that the idea of providing a pavilion with toilet facilities was perhaps unachievable in the current climate.

Members agreed to consider the following ideas and, after consultation with NW and GT, publish the new statement.

- Improve the fencing in the park where required (from the last statement).
- Work on the toilet block (from the last statement).
- Enclose an area for training and controlling less sociable dogs, which could also be used for puppy training – possibly the south east corner.
- Establish an effective method of keeping dogs away the entire children's play area – fencing?
- Improved signage about no bikes, skateboards, litter or dogs in the new tennis court and MUGA.
- Establish links with local primary schools.
- Develop the three recently-established wildlife areas.
- Create a further picnic area at the north end of the park, on the existing hardstanding where once a pavilion stood.
- Provide more seating around the edge of the park.
- Provide more seating and shelter at the south end, in the area of the swings.
- Consider replacing the old climbing frames.
- Refurbish the Cobbold sign.

6. Non-Attendees

As agreed at the previous AGM, members who are not actively involved in the work of the group and/or who don't attend at least three meetings in a year will have their names removed from the list of members and no longer be deemed members of the Friends of Murray Park.

The Chair resolved to send this set of minutes out to these people, after which they will be removed from the circulation list. **Chair**

6. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting had originally been scheduled for Thursday 12th December but as this now clashed with the recently arranged General Election, our meeting has been brought forward to Thursday 5th December at 6:45pm at Murrayside Community Centre, Nacton Road.

The Group also agreed that next year meetings will be held at two month intervals instead of six-weekly, and at the earlier time of 6.45 to allow Nick Wilcox to attend the early part of the meeting. It was also agreed to hold meetings on Thursdays only.