



Friends of Murray Park

Notes of virtual meeting held on Thursday 18th March 2021 Via Microsoft TEAMS

- Present:** Tracy Rowe (Chair)
Glen Thimblethorpe (Vice Chairman)
Lesley Fayers (Treasurer)
Sue Bird (Secretary)
- Members:** Paul Gilbert, Joanne Mansie, Mary Daley, Dennis Carpenter
- Also Present:** Cllr Sarah Barber, Cllr Bill Quinton, Nick Wilcox (IBC)(from 7.30)
Fabian Tompsett (Murrayside Community Development)
Hannah Canning (Suffolk Constabulary)
- Apologies:** Malcolm and Jenny Ebbs,

1 Excluded Persons

There were no excluded persons.

2 New Attendees

The Chair explained that she was very new in the office of Chair, and that the previous Chair, Sue Bird (now the Secretary) had been supporting her in learning the role, and thanked Sue for her help. As there were several new faces at the meeting, everybody briefly introduced themselves.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

4 Matters Arising/Updates

(i) "Wish List"

Action

There was some funding available for community projects in the whole of the IP3 area, possibly up to £70,000,

In addition to our original "Wish List" as included on our recently revised Mission Statement, some further ideas were expressed, these being planting more trees in the small wildlife areas, fencing around the play area and new play equipment, and a water tap.

Lighting in alley between the large Wildlife Area and the school was also desired (Highways Department).

(ii) **Man seen Urinating in bushes**

Park Patrol had captured video of the man who had been seen regularly urinating in bushes on the park and had given him a verbal warning. His wife also seems to have started the same habit.

(iii) **Wildlife Area**

Adam Dabin, the Head Teacher of the new Sir Bobby Robson School had been hoping to attend the meeting to discuss ways in which schoolchildren from the new school could become involved in the development of the Wildlife Area. As he had not been able to attend, we will pick up this matter again at the next meeting.

LF thought that the Wildlife area was just full of weeds rather than wildflowers. However, a botanist had pointed out that the plants that were there provided good long term feeding for insects. The Group considered, though, that it could be improved with the inclusion of poppies or other brightly coloured flowers to make it more attractive to look at.

It was hoped that we may be able to organise another Wildlife Day.

It was noted with some disappointment that someone had pulled apart the bug hotels that were made at the last Wildlife Day.

(iv) **Toilets**

Cllr Sarah Barber informed members that funding had been agreed for the refurbishment or replacement of the toilets and would be consulting with the Group shortly.

She had been in contact with the Council to ask how this project was getting on. They had replied that they had not been able to get much access and that the building definitely needed a lot of care and attention.

She asked members and Hannah Canning for feedback.

All

5 Suffolk Police Report

Hannah Canning addressed the meeting, explaining her new post as Community Engagement Officer, with the Ipswich East SaferNeighbourhood Team, based at Heath Road.

Her job involves assisting in promoting campaigns, local policing issues, and to act as a point of liaison between community groups. She also worked on the social media for the police in South East Ipswich.

6 Murrayside Community Development Association

Fabian Tompsett addressed the meeting He said that SCC were planning to find an organisation to which they could hand over the Murrayside Community Centre.

He was working with Martin Cherrington & Max Thomas and were looking to expand their committee. He had also been in touch with Paul Daley of IP3 Good Neighbours scheme.

There had been a document in February inviting people and organisations to give an "Expression of Interest".

They had drawn up some documents on the subject of "Reviving South East Ipswich"

The Community Centre was underused and was rotting in places, There was a strong need to expand the range of activities offered at the centre. They also want to include something regarding Climate Change. A lot of work had to be done to make it happen. This could provide jobs for local people.

A place to charge up electric vehicles may be considered, and a community transport service to supplement local buses. There was a fund of £3 billion across the UK.

7 Any Other Business

- (i) Suggestions had been made on the FaceBook page for more planting, a fish pond, more seating and bins by the seats.
- (ii) JM mentioned that the alley between the school and the park really needed better lighting and that there was dog mess there. This was down to the SCC Highways Department.

- (iii) The Chair asked about fencing around the whole play area. NW said he would enquire whether there was some second hand fencing available, as money for this sort of thing was still very tight.
- (iv) It was suggested that we might look into providing more seating and shelter from the sun, as the only shade nearby was from the cherry tree. She said that parents had no option but to sit in the full sun while watching their children play in that area. It was thought that we could plant more trees and/or install some open wooden gazebos.
- (v) PG said that he had seen IBC employees on the park the previous day planting trees and performing general maintenance. Some holes had also been filled and the latch on the gate to the Wildlife Area had been fixed.
- (vi) Broken glass had been found on the tennis courts and it was also reported that people had been climbing over the court fence to play tennis,
- (vii) MD Said that her husband was good at fundraising and DC volunteered to help with anything. The Chair said that there was strength in numbers and the more the merrier. MD also offered to help with tree planting if required.
- (viii) It was suggested that there could be a memorial plaque on some benches in memory of local Covid victims.
- (ix) It had been noticed that some dogs had been digging holes again, although it appeared that this had not happened recently.

8 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13 May, 2021, at 7.00pm, via Microsoft TEAMS.