



## Friends of Murray Park

### Notes of Meeting held on Wednesday at 7pm, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Murrayside Community Centre

**Present:**

**Officers:** Lesley Fayers (Treasurer) recording minutes for this meeting.  
Sue Bird (Secretary) chairing the meeting in the absence of Tracy Rowe).

**Members:** Dennis Carpenter, Paul Gilbert, Jimmy Knight, Jill Richardson, Malcolm Ebbs

**Also Present:** Cllr Roxanne Downes, Nick Wilcox (IBC)

**Apologies:** Tracy Rowe (Chair), Joanne Mansie.

#### 1 Excluded Persons

There were no excluded persons.

#### Action

#### 2 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record, subject to the correction of the date on the top of the document to read 12<sup>th</sup> July, and the addition of apologies received from Jill Richardson. A replacement set of minutes will be issued along with this set.

#### 3 Matters Arising

- a) The top-heavy tree mention at the previous meeting had not been looked at but NW thought that it would be seen in the regular inspection of trees in due course. As long as it was not dangerous, there was no urgency to attend to it.
- b) Regarding dog waste bag dispensers – the Parks Department think that if these were put on the park they would very soon be vandalised, so they were discouraged. None of the other parks had them but he said that the Friends could lead on this matter if they wished to fund it themselves.

c) **Bill Quinton**

At the previous meeting, it was agreed that we would like to have a tree planting ceremony with Bill Quinton, but this has not proceeded any further. Members were concerned that, as Bill's health is poor, we would like to do this sooner rather than later. SB to contact

d) **Memorial Plaques for Dogs**

NW said that some other parks in the town had a similar thing, but they had often been turned into "shrines" with all sorts of memorabilia being placed there by the bereaved owners. On our park, as well as this, they could also be subject to vandalism. Obviously this would defeat the object, making the owners even more upset. If it did go ahead, it would have to be stipulated that no other memorabilia, eg leads, collars, flowers etc, could be placed there.

The Parks Department were not keen on the idea for these reasons. NW said he would find out what the final decision was.

e) **New Trees**

Members all agreed that the gentleman who had been watering the new trees had done a sterling job, and asked that our sincere thanks be passed on to him.

f) **Renovation of Children's Play Area**

NW reiterated that all was in place for the play area to be revamped next year. At the moment the idea was to have a racecourse theme, which members thought appropriate, since at some time in its history, the area was used as a racecourse (hence the name of the estate).

#### 4 **Family Fun Day**

Members agreed that on the whole the event had proved to be a success, although there were minor problems with the raffle in that a few of the winners did not answer their phones when we called to inform them that they had won a prize, causing delays before the next number was called. We resolved to address this problem next time we have a stall.

JK had experienced problems contacting the winner of the Busted concert tickets.

The group expressed their thanks to all who donated plants and prizes for the raffle.

## **5 Banking/Finance**

LF produced a small spreadsheet showing the balance and expenditure of the account, which now included a total of £188 from the sale of raffle tickets, posies, plants and bunting.

The balance in our account now stands at £355.58.

## **6 Any Other Business**

- a) Suffolk County Council were organising a Get Fit Initiative (similar to the old Cycling Proficiency Test), and had been given permission for cycles to be used within the MUGA to teach people how to ride a bike safely as part of this activity. NW said he would send us further information on this.
  
- b) SB asked when the old toilets were scheduled to be demolished, and there was some discussion about the placement of a drinking fountain which it was hoped could be installed as part of the work on the demolition of the block.

## **7 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is 22<sup>nd</sup> November, at 7pm, which will be the AGM.