



## Friends of Murray Park

### Notes of Meeting held on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 at 7pm via Microsoft TEAMS

**Present:**

**Officers:**

Tracy Rowe (Chair)  
Lesley Fayers (Treasurer)  
Sue Bird (Secretary)

**Members:**

Dennis Carpenter, Lisa Brambill

**Also Present:**

Hannah Canning, Suffolk Constabulary  
Nick Wilcox, IBC, Cllr Bill Quinton

**Apologies:**

Cllr Sarah Barber, Paul Gilbert

**1 Minutes**

**Action**

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 10 February were agreed as a true record.

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January were agreed as a true record, subject to the deletion of DC from those present .

**2 Matters Arising/Updates**

- (i) The table tennis table had been delivered to Holywells, along with a package of ten bats and balls, and would be installed on Murray Park soon, at the agreed location near the cherry tree. NW said that he was hoping that the IBC Head of Sport would attend. He was aware that it could work successfully. NW would get in touch with him, and also get some advice from a local table tennis group. There is also a lot of useful information on line.

PG had agreed to be the local "Table Tennis Champion"

LF said there were technical drawings on the Table Tennis England website which showed the actual footprint required to allow enough room to play.

The Group again discussed where best to keep the bats and balls to make them available to the public. TR offered to email Murrayside Community Project to enquire whether these could be kept at the Centre (they could also use them if they wished to do so). Ping suggest that they be hired out to people aged 12+, who could pay a deposit and provide proof of ID.

**TR**

Table Tennis England would be contacting us again in a few weeks.

- (ii) Our request to use the remainder of the funding allocated to the Friends for the table tennis table to purchase a gazebo has been approved, thus allowing the group to meet in the park and be self-sufficient. NW was going to enquire about the cost and TR said she would soon order it.

**TR**

NW offered to enquire whether one could be bought through IBC (tax free), possibly with the MPF logo. He was also going to see if there was one already available which was not being used.

**NW**

- (iii) The Eco-Toilets are now open and positive feedback has been received, although one woman had said they were ugly. Signage indicating that both units are unisex has been completed. There had been a few incidents but nothing too bad – the toilets had generally been well accepted by park users.

NW explained how the units work – there are two chambers in each unit which are used alternately. They are emptied about once a year and the end result should be usable garden compost.

The Wildlife Team are going to be cladding them or adding a green roof to the toilets, and possible bug hotels, to make them more attractive.

TR said that more nursery children were using the park now because of the improvements to the toilet facilities.

- (iv) The Friends again discussed the layout and appearance of the large Wildlife area. SB said the original plan was to have a mown U-shaped path from one gate to the other with specific lecterns along the way giving details of the flora and/or fauna which can be found there.

She said that she had originally suggested the Yellow Rattle be used on the area to restrict the growth of grass. While there was some Yellow Rattle on the Wildlife Area, there was not enough.

The Group noted that a pair of jackdaws had been seen in the Wildlife Area looking for underground bugs.

Lucy Sheppard from the Wildlife Trust could offer advice and Emma Black from Friends of the Earth was also keen to be involved.

There could also be involvement from The Bobby Robson School and/or Murrayside Primary School. The grass could be cut by hand and children could help by raking up cuttings and piling them up somewhere for insects to use.

SB also mentioned that she had originally requested that there should be a habitat for stag beetles and asked if a rotten tree stump be placed in the area. NW said that this could be arranged fairly cheaply, and that the stump would have to be fastened down with chicken netting.

**NW**

It was thought by some that the Wildlife Area, whilst attractive in the summer, it is boring and lacklustre in winter. NW said there were many plants on there which were beneficial for the insect life. IBC could introduce some flowering plants but this would be expensive.

The Wildlife Team would soon be installing a replacement gate, which was already on order and could be fitted within the next two weeks.

### **3 Jubilee Party**

The Group noted that other Jubilee events had been planned:-

- St Leonard Road residents were having a street party.
- Cliff Lane were collaborating with Holywells park to organise a Street Fayre on 5<sup>th</sup> June.
- IP3 Good Neighbours and the local Library were also planning an event.

This left only Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June available. The Group decided that the event should be a "Picnic on the Park", with attendees bringing their own picnic, and drinks or ice creams could be made available.

A small meeting on the park could be held to discuss this. There would be no need for insurance, but we may need to get approval and/or advice.

**TBA**

### **4 Dog Waste**

LB said that this was a major problem, and the Group informed her that this was something we had discussed on many occasions, but had not been able to solve.

Some of the red dog waste bins had been replaced by larger all purpose bins.

Often the offending mess is left by dog owners walking round and chatting to their friends, or those who had multiple dogs and found it difficult to keep an eye on all of them at once.

HC (Suffolk Constabulary) informed the Group that a new "Public Space Protection Order" had come into force recently and this could lead to more fines/prosecutions for the offenders.

## **5 Any Other Business**

- (i) LB said that her son had really enjoyed watching the workmen installing the new toilets. The good weather had helped. NW said that other parks would soon be furnished with them.
- (ii) TR (Chair) said that the new path leading to the toilets had not yet been completed, and NW explained that the workmen were on other jobs at the moment. The work done so far had, however, solved the problem of muddy areas near that gate.
- (iii) The orchard gate does not meet the post and had been tied up with a plastic dog-waste bag.
- (iv) SB had received an enquiry from a local resident about the possibility (as is the case in many other public spaces) of planting daffodils around the borders of the park under the trees/next to the fence. NW had no objection to this, but SB said that daffodills in particular were very poisonous to dogs, so some other plant(s) would have to be considered for this.
- (v) Someone had notice men working on the trees on the main park. NW had no further information on this and assumed that they must be eliminating dead wood.

## **6 Date of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting was to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm.