



## Friends of Murray Park

### Notes of virtual meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Via Microsoft TEAMS

- Present:** Tracy Rowe (Chair)  
Lesley Fayers (Treasurer)  
Sue Bird (Secretary) for early part of meeting  
Glen Thimblethorpe (Vice Chairman)
- Members:** Denis Carpenter, Joanne Mansie, Paul Gilbert
- Also Present:** Cllr Bill Quinton, Nick Wilcox IBC, Hannah Channing (Police)
- Apologies:** Cllr Sarah Barber, Cllr Luke Richardson

#### 1 Excluded Persons

There were no excluded persons.

#### 2 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record, subject to the removal of Hannah Canning from the list of persons present.

#### 3 Matters Arising/Updates

#### Action

3.1 LF asked whether a thankyou letter had been sent to William Etheridge, the 14-year-old who had been watering the two new trees in the park. NW said that he thought that the Mayor had dealt with this. Cllr Barber was not present at the meeting to give an update.

3.2 DC asked if a decision had been made on whether the park can have two toilets rather than one. NW will ask the councillors for progress but there will be a separate urinal and toilet. He also asked if the cultural aspect had been considered regarding mixed sex toilets.

DC asked whether any women had taken part in the trials of the composting toilets.

LF asked what was to happen to the old toilet block and NW said they would be fenced off until a decision had been made. A location for the new one had not been decided yet.

NW would ask for suggestions about the site of the new toilets.

- 3.3 LF said the latch on the gate to the wildflower meadow had not yet been fixed. She also asked if the park people could sweep the stones back onto the park path that had run off onto Murray Road south gate.

#### **4 Election of Officers**

There were no volunteers other than the present incumbents for any of the officer posts. PG proposed that all three Officers be re-elected, and this was seconded by JM. Thus the following is the outcome:

Tracy Rowe re-elected as Chairperson  
Glen Thimblethorpe re-elected as Vice Chairman  
Sue Bird re-elected as Secretary  
Lesley Fayers re-elected as Treasurer

#### **5 Mission Statement**

The Chair wished to reiterate that Murray Park Friends exists solely to deal with matters concerning Murray Park. We have no authority or obligation to attend events on other parks.

#### **6 Table Tennis Table**

PG is sorting out the application to the IBC funding committee and asked NW about costs. Parks will pay for the installation but if a cost has to be supplied then it would be about £250. Our survey supports this facility.

#### **7 Any Other Business**

TR to ask cllr BQ for funds for a marquee so we are self-sufficient for any future park fun days.

TR

PG reported that a youth is still riding his mini motorbike on the park but as times and duration vary it is difficult to report him. The Group were asked to make a note of his number plate if possible.

NW said the long grass will be cut soon. The Parks Department were concentrating on the “wet” parks at the moment. The Wildlife area would also be mown soon.

Drug dealers and/or their delivery boys have been seen on the park. The Group wanted to thank the police for their efforts in dealing with this. JM reported that she was still seeing drug users on the bench near the North-Eastern gate, and they frequently left cans, bottles and other litter behind.

JM said that footballs and basketballs often came over the top of the MUGA railings and landed in the enclosed toddler area and the picnic area, and she considered that the railings on the new courts were not high enough as it was endangering toddlers. NW said that the railings around the courts were a standard size and that additional nets would be expensive, but said that he would look at some options.

NW

There were two replacement apple trees for the orchard area.

On the recent Fun Day, the Chair talked to a woman from Suffolk Friends of the Earth, Lucy Sheppard, who was keen to help develop the wildflower area, NW will contact her.

## **8 Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair had approved the Calendar of Meetings for 2022, so the next meeting will be on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm, again via TEAMS.