



Friends of Murray Park

Notes of virtual meeting held on Thursday 13th May 2021 Via Microsoft TEAMS

Present:

Officers: Tracy Rowe (Chair) Glen Thimblethorpe (Vice Chairman)
Lesley Fayers (Treasurer) Sue Bird (Secretary)

Members: Paul Gilbert, Joanne Mansie, Mary Daley,

Also Present: Cllr Sarah Barber, Cllr Bill Quinton, Nick Wilcox (IBC)
Hannah Canning (Suffolk Constabulary)

Apologies: Adam Dabin,

1 Excluded Persons

There were no excluded persons.

2 Minutes

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

3 Matters Arising/Updates

Action

a) **Wildlife Area**

Suffolk Parent Carer s Network were keen to get involved in the Wildlife Area.

b) **Murrayside Community Development**

Fabian Thompsett had left the group shortly after the MPF meeting and our contact was now Martin Charrington.

Members were informed that the Group had got the go-ahead to proceed with their plans, They were still working on a business plan. They were awaiting confirmation of funding and believed that they were almost there. They were looking for volunteers.

c) **Vandalised Trees**

NW informed that a replacement tree had been obtained. This was a mature specimen and could be planted right away, or could wait until October.

LF suggested that members could adopt a tree and be responsible for watering it .

It was also suggested that one of the local schools might like to help with this.

On balance, it was decided to plant it in the autumn, when it would not require as much watering.

IBC

4 Motor Bikes on the Park

The group noted that a number of youths on mopeds had been seen roaring round the area around the tennis courts. HC (Police) had not been aware of this, and she asked members to report it by phone on 101 or 999 (if warranted) or on line afterwards, so that it can be recorded. It was believed that alcohol was also involved as there were often bottles to be cleared away the following day.

There had also been some turf dislodged, presumably by the bikes. They had been holding races on the park at around 9pm to 10pm. Sometimes the bikes had no number plates. The Police had seized some bikes and were doing their best to educate these people.

The question of whether to lock the gates after dark was again mentioned, but this would only serve to inconvenience the many park users who walk their dogs early before going to work.

Members also noted that E-scooters were only allowed on private land with permission.

There had also been an incident of use of a dirt bike on the park in broad daylight. Members were reminded that if this was becoming a danger to other park users, they should report it using the 999 service.

5 Any Other Business

Someone with a clipboard had been seen making notes about possible maintenance issues. It was mentioned that the catch on the gate to the Wildlife Area needed to be mended or replaced.

Members were pleased to note that the area where the man had been seen urinating had been cut back.

Regarding the trees near the Wildlife area, a member asked whether they were perhaps getting too tall, and asked whether they should be cut back. NW said that they may need to have the dead wood removed.

It was thought that some substantial trees may be hogging all the rain water, and the smaller trees nearby may be suffering as a result. This could be looked at some time in the future, but was not seen as a priority.

Regarding the longstanding issue of the toilets, the Council had been exploring the cost difference between introducing an eco-toilet and the original plan of refurbishing the current block. It was hoped that a decision would be made fairly soon.

The Park was often being used by people doing football training, and they were still regularly leaving large amounts of water bottles behind. If members see this happening, they are advised to notify Park Patrol, who will be happy to “educate” them. The litter was also a potential danger to wildlife and other park users including dogs.

A member had approached a group of teenagers who were leaving a lot of rubbish and drink cans etc on the park. If there was a large number it can be intimidating to approach them, and people were wary of reprisals.

It was also noted that several members pick up rubbish first thing in the morning when they walk their dogs, so Park Patrol probably not fully aware of how big the problem actually is.

The undergrowth in the triangular wildlife areas had not been cut back, but was good for hedgehogs anyway.

People had been noticed conducting fitness classes on the park and should have emailed IBC for permission. These classes no doubt charge a subscription and make a profit. Most parks had suffered as a result of the pandemic.

6 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 15th July at 7pm, via Microsoft TEAMS.