



Friends of Murray Park

Notes of Annual General Meeting held at 7pm on 9th October 2018 At The Golden Hind Public House, Nacton Road,

Present:

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

Members: Malcolm Ebbs Jenny Ebbs
Ian Hardwick Tracy Rowe
Helen Barker Scott Falteisek
Joanne Chainey Jane Garnham-Woods
Paul Gilbert Dennis Carpenter
Stephen Wright

Councillors Cllr Sarah Barber Cllr Bill Quinton

Apologies: Cllr Stephen Connelly Cllr Bill Knowles
Scott Faltiesek Joanne Mansie
Juliette Clarke Colin Clarke
Neil Winn (Interim Principal of Murrayfield School)

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone and as there were some new faces, everyone briefly introduced themselves. The Chair explained that Mr Neil Winn (Interim Principal of Murrayfield School) hoped to be able to join us later on during the meeting, if he could complete his previous meeting in time.

2. Election of Officers

This meeting being the Annual General Meeting, the Group were required to elect officers for the forthcoming twelve months. The Chair, Vice Chairman and Treasurer were all willing to stand for a further year and were nominated and seconded accordingly. The Chair explained that Glen Thimblethorpe, the Vice Chairman, while he could not attend many meetings, was an invaluable resource, as he does a lot of work on behalf of the Group outside of the meetings and possesses skills, experience and connections that other members of the group are unable to offer.

The Secretary had sent a message via the Vice Chairman that he wished to stand down, as his work commitments conflict with this role. Ian Hardwick was nominated to take over the role of Secretary, which was also seconded accordingly.

3. Excluded People

There were no excluded people.

4. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the meeting held in August were not yet available. Ian Hardwick agreed to take minutes of this meeting in the absence of the Secretary who was delayed on business.

5. Matters Arising

Action

As the minutes for the August meeting were not available, the Group went through the minutes of the meeting held in July, to ascertain any further progress (or otherwise) on the matters raised.

The Vice Chairman reported that there was a possibility of the privacy walls in the toilet block being replaced with self-closing doors, but this doesn't appear to be very likely to due to lack of funding, so alternatives are being looked into. Cllr Barber said that she and Cllr Quinton would speak to the parks department at IBC about costing etc.

SB (Cllr)
BQ (Cllr)

There is also an awareness of drug use in the toilet block, but it is uncertain whether this is officially recognised as an outstanding problem.

Members wondered about the possibility of an external tap for drinking water being added to the toilet block, as children on the park had becoming overheated during the very hot summer this year. The Vice Chairman said this might be a possibility but would take some time to make it happen.

Members noted that there was an old drinking fountain near the South East gate, which could possibly be connected up again, but funding issues would probably make this a non-starter.

The man who is recognised to have a mental illness and who has been known to harass users of the park has returned to the park recently and is again verbally abusing/disturbing people, sometimes children, so all agreed that there needs to be a raised awareness of the possibility of him returning again.

Cllr Barber said his behaviour can be reported by calling 101 or going online, and she also said that this can also be raised in their next meeting with the local police inspector. Cllr Barber also said it helps to have a number of such reports for issues like this, so there is then a record of how often it happens, as very little can be done on a single / few reports.

All

The large lump of concrete in the north east corner orchard area, with a large piece of rusted metal is sticking out is still present.

IBC

The protruding manhole covers had been banked up with soil recently, to reduce the trip hazard.

Some of the holes in the ground have been filled in recently, but this is an on-going problem as the same culprit appears to be continuing to dig holes.

On the subject of member recruitment, this had not progressed any further, and Tracy Rowe agreed to do some work herself, visiting some local nurseries, as she has connections to these via her work role. The Chair promised to email her some updated flyers.

TR
Chair

6. Updates

The paperwork required to change the signatories for the bank account has now been completed.

The large lump of concrete in the orchard area (North East corner) still has not been removed and the fence around that area is still incomplete.

7. Priorities

The Chair said she has noticed that new play equipment was being installed in a nearby park, and wondered any of the equipment being taken out (much of which was better than that currently on Murray Park). Cllr Barber said she will raise this with IBC.

The Chair also said there is still a concern about dogs in the children's play area, as some children are terrified of dogs, and some dogs can be excitable or even aggressive. This had been discussed in several meetings previously, but nothing has as yet been done.

Another concern was the gate in the toddler play area, which had been hung so that it opens outward instead of inwards, as children could easily open it. Cllr Barber said she will ask the appropriate people about reasoning behind this.

NACTON ROAD AREA FUND

The Chair asked if the funds from the Nacton Road Area fund would be available for use on Murray Park.

Cllr Barber said this is Area Committee money, and that other community groups would also be applying for funds. If and when the Friends of Murray Park had a specific project that they should also apply.

The Vice Chairman said that the Group needs to come up with specific ideas on how to use this, which should then be well worth submitting.

It was agreed that fencing to segregate dogs from children in the play areas would be a good idea, but Cllr Quinton said this couldn't be the only idea submitted, and it should be something that benefits everyone concerned.

Cllr Barber confirmed what people can do to go about achieving progress with this. The Vice Chairman was happy to assist in doing this, but it was agreed a plan needs to be in place for this before anything else happens – what ideas are going to be submitted, and why, i.e. how this would benefit as many people in the local area as possible.

Cllr Barber also said that the Community Engagement Team at IBC could help to signpost the friends to other funding providers.

Cllr Quinton also said this has to be something permanent, not something that people ask to have changed after a couple of years.

GROW WILD FUNDING

Funds from this initiative may be available to the Friends in order to develop the new wildlife area, ie where the old tennis courts were.

The Vice Chairman spoke about this having to be a community- based application, rather than it being something that would be aimed specifically at the school next to the park. Cllr Barber suggested this could also benefit local PRUs and High School.

The Vice Chairman said that a bid would be more successful if it were to be used in a very original, 'different' fashion, and asked for ideas on how to go about this, and a few ideas based around nature that would educate children were shared between members.

Ipswich Rangers and the Suffolk Wildlife Trust were two ideas raised as possibilities to assist with funding and volunteers / workers.

Cllr Quinton said that it would need to be established who would take ownership of any such new projects, and so this would need to be part of the application.

The Vice Chairman that it would be ideal for the local schools to firstly express interest, and then come up with ideas as to what they would like to see happen and how they would put this to use for the children, to establish what can realistically be achieved and emphasize how this funding would be spent effectively.

The deadline for applications for this is 10/12/18 at 12:00.

The Secretary (who works at the School) agreed to speak to the Interim Head about what ideas on designs of lessons to use this resource to educate children, and to contact the group about how to go about taking this further.

IH

8. Any Other Business

Most of the dog bins on the park are in a poor state of repair.

The gate on the tennis courts has been broken too, and the handle on the inner court has also been damaged. **IBC**

The grass in the children's area is uncut and overrun with weeds and could be a danger to any children running through. **IBC**

The poor signage around the tennis courts was again discussed.

Two bench seats are also damaged.

The fence around the orchard in the North East is still incomplete. **IBC**
Some mattresses had dumped on the park. The Chair said that she had reported this as fly tipping as soon as they had appeared, which resulted in them being removed.

Members noted that people have been observed jumping over the fences, rather than walk a few steps to the gate. Many also leave rubbish behind, and generally behave in an unsavoury manner, showing no appreciation for the amount of effort and money that has been put into providing the local community with resources and activities.

SB (Chair) thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 20:15.

9. Date of next meeting

Thursday 22nd November

All at 7pm at the Golden Hind Public House, Nacton Road, Ipswich