



Friends of Murray Park

Notes of meeting held at 7pm on 14 May 2019 at Murrayside Community Centre, Nacton Road, Ipswich

Present:

Officers: Sue Bird (Chair) Ian Hardwick (Secretary)

Members: Malcolm Ebbs Jenny Ebbs Dennis Carpenter
Paul Gilbert Bev Stratton

Councillors: Cllr Sarah Barber

Apologies: Lesley Fayers (Treasurer), Stephen Wright, Tracy Rowe

1. Minutes of last meeting

Meeting minutes were deemed acceptable.

2. Excluded People

There were no excluded people.

3. Matters Arising

Action

The gym equipment has been ordered – paid for via the grant from Tesco. Any remaining money from the £1,000 that was granted will pay for groundwork around the gate in the north east corner of the park, this being the worst one for becoming waterlogged in wet weather.

Some topsoil had been delivered to the south end of the park in early May, and was used by several members to fill in large number of holes around the park. The Chair thanked the members for their efforts on the Hole Filling day.

A small bag of grass seed has also been provided for the park, for scattering on the topsoil after hole filling, so as to avoid having more 'bald' patches. Several members continue to use the soil and the seed to fill in the holes as they appear.

The Chair mentioned the large very uneven area between the tennis court and the fence on the King Edward Road side and asked whether we should use some of the topsoil/seed to try to make this area a bit more usable. One member, who uses a mobility scooter on the park, said that the area in question is not very friendly to folk using mobility scooters, as it is very uneven and hard packed. Members thought it best that this be dealt with by IBC as the hard packed soil in this area would need to be disturbed before planting seed.

Cllr SB spoke about a number of activity days coming up during the coming warmer months, including 'Jumpers for Goalposts'; events.

Advertising, developments and recruitment were discussed, and it was suggested to approach TR about the idea of being the moderator of a Facebook page, which is hoped to increase this.

Paul Gilbert also agreed to speak to member JM about the idea of the Facebook page, possibly rather than attending meetings.

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Cllr SB also agreed to speak to IBC's Social Media Team about this, and invite a member of the team to the next meeting. Members of various other local groups could also be invited, for an opportunity to share ideas and help each other out.

4. Wildlife Day

This had been held on the park the previous weekend. 19 questionnaires were completed on paper during the park's wildlife day, and approximately another 140 were done online via Survey Monkey.

A number of bird boxes and bug hotels were also made during the wildlife day, and are set to be fixed into the appropriate positions in the park by IBC in due course.

5. Updates

The toilets are opened more often now, and Cllr SB said that, while on the park filling holes, she had to speak to a man for urinating just outside the building.

It was made known that the Major Projects Team from IBC are very enthusiastic about renovating the toilet block, rather than destroying it and rebuilding one. Doing this would cost approximately £30,000, whereas a complete rebuild would cost approximately £50,000. A privacy wall is set to be removed too, to reduce illegal / improper activity in the vicinity. A member also suggested an outside tap would be a good idea.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr SB for addressing this.

Work on creating a mown path in the wildlife area has begun, and appears to be progressing well.

It was noted that stag beetles are being spotted in some gardens in Murray Road.

It was noted that the Park Patrol Team have been very responsive to communication from the public.

Cllr SB agreed to contact the Head at Murrayfield Primary to discuss the previously debated idea of posters being created by the children who attend the school asking members of the public to look after the park, and not damage anything. BS said she would be willing to volunteer to come into the school to help get this going as she used to teach art.

5. Any Other Business

A community open day at Murrayside Community Centre had been planned on May 25th, to raise awareness of what is available there and how local groups can get involved with them to support each other. Members of FOMP were invited to attend. (Unfortunately, this was later postponed).

Along with the tree that has had spray paint put on it, one of the bins was recently damaged by a member of the public, and now needs to be repaired or replaced.

ME mentioned that there is a piece of fencing on the north west end of the park, near the old Cobbold sign, that is protruding dangerously.

It was also noted that there are still gaps in the fence in the orchard in the north east corner of the park. This has been mentioned several times.

Cllr SB also agreed to speak to IBC about the idea of a dog warden being on the park, to try to address the continuing problem of dog fouling and hole digging.

Members discussed whether locking the park gates at night would help. It is thought that a number of dog walkers use the park at night to avoid picking up after their dog/s. Members thought that this was impractical, as there were many more responsible users who would be inconvenienced by this.

The Chair asked Cllr Barber to find out whether Cllrs Quinton and Knowles would like to continue to receive emailed minutes etc from the Friends.

6. Date of the next meeting

Thursday 27th June 2019, at 7pm at Murrayside Community Centre.