



Friends of Murray Park

Notes of Meeting held at 6:45pm on 5 December 2019 At Murrayside Community Centre, Nacton Road, Ipswich.

Present:

Officers: Sue Bird (Chair)
Lesley Fayers (Treasurer) (also taking notes in the absence of the Secretary)

Members: Malcolm Ebbs, Jenny Ebbs, Paul Gilbert

Councillors: Cllr Sarah Barber

Also present: Nick Wilcox from IBC

Apologies: Ian Hardwick (Secretary), Tracy Rowe, Dennis Carpenter

1. Minutes of last meeting

Meeting minutes were deemed acceptable.

2. Excluded People

There were no excluded people.

3. Matters Arising/Updates

Action

Nick Wilcox updated members as follows.

The damage to the picnic table would be rectified by new slats being installed.

The damaged benches will be replaced as and when a bench becomes available, but in the meantime IBC propose to cut off the back of the seat which should alleviate the problem, while still providing a seat for park users to sit on.

IBC tree experts are aware of the damage to the oak tree and will inspect again once the tree is in leaf next year. There is some fungus growing on it but this is not seen as harmful.

IBC and the Police are aware that the toilets are being used for drug taking and drug dealing, as well as soliciting.

Footballers using the park for practice sessions are continuing to leave large amounts of rubbish behind, Park Patrol are keeping an eye on the situation. In answer to a query, Nick confirmed that footballers are not charged for using the football pitch on the park.

The area which the Group had previously identified as a possible site for an exclusion zone/exercise area for unsociable dogs is not a very large area and may not be large enough to exercise a dog sufficiently (ie about 600 sq m), but is not out of the question. The Group would need to provide an action plan if the matter is to be taken forward.

Nick asked if members could request feedback from anyone using the new keep fit equipment, and pass on to him.

In response to a query, Nick confirmed that the passageway between the school and the wildlife area is the responsibility of Suffolk County Council, although in practice IBC are usually tasked with any work in there, on behalf of SCC. A bush needs to be cut back.

4. Any Other Business

The Chair informed members that the Secretary, Ian Hardwick, had left his job at the school, and that it was understood that Tracy Rowe would be attempting to re-establish a link with the school as she visits there as part of her own job.

There was further discussion on the matter of fencing off the children's play area. Cllr Sarah Barber mentioned the possible availability of funds from the "Making a Difference" pot held by Councillors.

5. Meeting Calendar 2020

The Chair informed members that she would shortly be working on the calendar of meetings for 2020, and would distribute this with this set of minutes. Meetings would continue to be held at 6:45pm at Murrayside Community Centre, Nacton Road, but at two month intervals and on Thursdays only, as agreed at the AGM.

Chair

The next meeting will be on Thursday 6th February, with subsequent meetings as follows.

Thursday 9th April, Thursday 11th June, Thursday 6th August
Thursday 8th October and Thursday 10th December