



Friends of Murray Park

**Notes of meeting held at 7pm on 06/08/19
At Murrayside Community Centre, Nacton Road, Ipswich.**

Present:

Officers: Sue Bird (Chair)
Ian Hardwick (Secretary)
Lesley Fayers (Treasurer)

Members: Malcolm Ebbs Jenny Ebbs
Paul Gilbert Stephen Wright
Tracy Rowe

Councillors: None present at this meeting

Also present: Jeni Raw from IBC's Social Media Team.

Apologies: Cllr Sarah Barber, Bev Stratton

1. Minutes of last meeting

Meeting minutes were deemed acceptable.

2. Excluded People

There were no excluded people.

3. Matters Arising

Action

Members reported that there had been several complaints from members of the public about the toilets - their general condition and that they are locked up too often.

The Chair informed members that the recent survey had also shown that public opinion is definitely in favour of improved toilets, and that she had confirmed to the Council that members had discussed this on several occasions, with the same outcome – that improvements are needed desperately.

There appears to be a higher level of police presence in the area at the moment, and it is hoped that this will play a part in reducing illegal/anti-social activity in the park.

Members discussed how vastly overgrown the wildlife area has become, and also that there are too many weeds and too much rubbish in the alley between the park and the school.

Once again members noted with despair that littering is still a major problem on the main park, in the wildlife area. There was also a large amount of Nightshade in various areas.

A group of members agreed to meet on the following Friday to reduce the amount that has grown in the area. Some members could not make that date, so it was agreed to continue the work on the following Friday if necessary, which different members would be able to help. The Chair offered to approach the Council to borrow some litter picking implements.

Chair

Members who live close to the park agreed to make their wheelie bins available for disposal of the waste collected, and. The Chair advised members to bring a brush and dustpan to pick up any broken glass too, rather than use any other means to do so.

ME also asked whose responsibility it is to keep the alley clean and tidy – this was not clear, but it is hoped that members carrying out this task will make a more emphatic point of the need for it to be done regularly.

The group's Facebook page is now live! An event was posted during the meeting regarding the tidying up mentioned above, and members of the group are encouraged to post this on their own news feeds (if they use Facebook) to invite other people to come and assist.

All

The Chair reminded members to advise her of the amount of time they spend doing work, of any description, that contributes to the upkeep of the park, so it can be recorded.

All

4. Updates

The uneven area of land raised in previous meetings has not yet been rectified.

IBC

The money for the room bookings for previous meetings is had still not been paid into the account when last checked, meaning that we cannot pay for the hi-vis jackets until this is resolved.

IBC

It was made known that BS has contacted the school about assisting children to create posters about cleanliness for the park, and she was informed that she would 'need to speak to a manager' about this, but it is unclear, at this stage, who that would be. It was also made known that she cannot access her emails at this time, causing a delay in correspondence.

Dense undergrowth appears to have reduced at the north end of the park. Hopefully this, along with the increased police presence, will deter the drug users from visiting the park.

Members noted that a damaged net on a tennis court had been temporarily

repaired by a member of the public, and that IBC later repaired properly.

He also suggested the park's postcode being advertised to the public for emergencies, so they can advise the emergency services of so the casualty can be located more easily, but it was agreed that stating 'Murray Park', the name of one of the adjacent roads and 'Ipswich' should be sufficient.

Members agreed to consider raising funds for another picnic area to be placed at the north end of the park, to encourage more lawful and social activity, and the reduction of illegal / anti-social activity. This area has much more shade than the southern end, and there is already a large concrete area where there used to be a pavilion.

5. Priorities

LF stated she has pulled up some Deadly Nightshade recently, and The Chair said she has also done this, and it is suspected that it has grown back again, due to recent spells of heavy rain and sunshine. Members are encouraged to continue to remove them.

LF also stated the green 'darts' appear to be dying off, to a degree, but also that there appears to be at least some present practically all of the time.

6. Any Other Business

The bug hotels had been put up in the wildlife area but no-one has seen the bird boxes being installed. Various members said they would check when using the park.

All

6. Date and location of the next meeting

September 19th, 2019 at Murrayside Community Centre, Nacton Road, Ipswich.