



## Friends of Murray Park

### Minutes of meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 At the Golden Hind Public House, Nacton Road

**Present:**

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

**Members:** Malcolm Ebbs                      Jenny Ebbs  
Paul Gilbert

**Apologies:** Glen Thimblethorpe (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr Sarah Barber                      Cllr Stephen Connelly  
Cllr Bill Knowles                      Cllr Bill Quinton SCC  
Helen Barker                          Tracy Rowe  
Neil Winn (Principal of Murrayfield Primary Academy)

#### 1. Minutes of last meeting

The previous minutes were approved by all present, subject to an amendment in a section in 'AOB' to read that it is the drop bolt on the gate which is damaged, not the gate itself.

#### 2. Excluded People

There were no excluded people.

#### 3. Matters Arising

#### Action

The toilet block will be closed over the winter because of the risk of the pipes freezing.

The play equipment from the park on Cobham Road/Bantoft Terrace will not be moved to Murray Park because it has been too badly damaged.

The police are aware of allegations of drug use in the toilet block

If a price for lighting in the toilet block is required, PG has said he can look into this.

PG also enquired why cables for lighting recently laid in the footpath between Murray Road and King Edward Road could not have been extended to include lighting in or outside the toilet block, which could have also played a part in frost protection.

Cllr Sarah Barber had informed the Chair that the gate on the toddler playground is positioned in the way it is to avoid it striking children who are already in the play area when opening from the outside.

The man who has been behaving in an antisocial fashion at times in the past due to his poor mental health has still been seen on occasion in the local area, but doesn't appear to be presenting any problems recently.

The lump of concrete in the orchard area at the North East end of the park has finally been removed!

#### **4. Updates**

##### **a) Grow Wild Fund/Murrayfield Primary Academy**

SB (Chair), GT (Vice Chairman), LF (Treasurer) had recently met on the park with Richard Sharp (Wildlife Ranger from IBC) and Leon Hall (Assistant Principal, Murrayfield Primary Academy) to discuss the Grow Wild Fund project and other matters.

Following that meeting on the park, children at Murrayfield Primary Academy are being asked to present some ideas as to what they would like to see on site of the old tennis courts.

However, this could not be taken any further at the meeting because nobody from the school was able to attend. SB (Chair) and LF will contact someone at the school in the near future as there is a short deadline for this.

**Chair  
& LF**

At that meeting on the park, the Chair had asked for a buddleia to be planted in the park to attract butterflies, but this was not within the remit of the Grow Wild Fund, as it is not a native plant. RS agreed that this could be placed in the triangular area at the North West corner of the park. LF said she is willing to donate one which is growing in her garden! So far this has not yet happened.

**RS**

Murrayfield Primary Academy has asked the Friends if their pupils can use the Multi Use Games Area on the park, and members agreed that there is no reason to object to this, as long as the area is properly looked after and kept clean and tidy. There might be a problem if someone else is already using the facility, but there is the possibility of reserving it for certain periods, with the approval of IBC.

##### **b) Nacton Road Area Fund**

Because of the other matters being processed at the moment, it was decided to postpone an application to this funding source, with a view to looking at it again in the next tax year.

**c) Tesco Bags of Help Scheme**

SB (Chair) informed the Friends that we have been allocated a voting box in the Tesco Bags For Help scheme, which will be in 8 local Tesco stores throughout January and February 2019. Members are asked for their support on this. Whatever amount we receive will be put towards the adult exercise equipment proposed earlier in the year.

**All**

**5. Any Other Business**

Attendance has been disappointing and there are several members who no longer attend and do not bother to send apologies.

It has been proposed that members who do not attend a minimum of three meetings per calendar year should consequently be removed from the list of members' names. The Chair said they are invited to contact her if they would like to continue to be active members.

If any members feel they would find it easier to attend meetings if they were held in a venue closer to the park, this could be investigated. The Chair said she would approach Cllr Bill Quinton about the use of the building that was Realise Futures as an alternative venue, as this was now being refurbished for use by younger members of the local community in an effort to reduce antisocial behaviour in the area.

**Chair**

Cllr Sarah Barber had informed the Chair that she has been given an oak tree to plant in the park, and she plans to plant this on 04/12/18 at 10am. Members are welcome to come and see this happen if they wish.

The calendar of meetings for 2019 was agreed.

**6. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2019, at 7pm. Venue to be confirmed nearer the time.

Meeting closed at 20:10