



Friends of Murray Park

Notes of Meeting held on Wednesday 21st September 2022 at 7pm at Murrayside Community Centre

Present:

Officers: Tracy Rowe (Chair)
Lesley Fayers (Treasurer)
Sue Bird (Secretary)

Members: Dennis Carpenter, Paul Gilbert, Malcolm and Jenny Ebbs

Also Present: Cllr Bill Quinton, Nick Wilcox (IBC), Max Thomas

Apologies: Cllr Sarah Barber, Cllr Luke Richardson, Lisa Brambill.

1 Excluded Persons

Action

There were no excluded persons.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

3 Matters Arising

a) The table tennis table had been vandalised with lewd drawings. NW had investigated whether we would be able to buy any paint from the manufacturers to cover the graffiti but this was not available. NW said we could buy a replacement half top for £240 but members thought that even if we did paint it or replace the half top, the graffiti would probably only appear again. It was thought that it would wear away over time.

The small notice informing park users that bats and balls could be obtained from Murrayside Community Centre had disappeared. SB promised to supply a replacement, which the Chair would then put in place. NE asked for a digital copy of the sign so that a more permanent notice could be made, SB promised to supply this.

SB

SB

Members noted that lots of park users were taking their own bats and balls and using the table, which was encouraging.

- b) The children's outdoor play area was due to be replaced in 2024/25. NW said that these days new play areas tended to have a "theme", eg pirates, circus etc. As the park itself used to be a racecourse many years ago, maybe that could be a theme. Members agreed to give the matter some thought between now and the AGM in November, and come up with some possible ideas.
- c) Stacey Read, the counsellor at Murrayside Community Centre, was organising an Activity Day on Wednesday 20th October, which would feature things such as Wellbeing etc.
- d) MT circulated flyers regarding a Car Boot Sale to be held on Sunday 23rd October. The price would be £5 per pitch and hot food may be available. Members agreed that it would be all right to direct members of the public to the toilets on the park.

4 Tree Benches

Some feedback had been taken from members of the public, indicating that some seating in the shade would be well received. The Group had in mind a circular bench under the cherry tree near the children's play area.

NW informed members that there was nothing available in stock at IBC. MT said that MCD may be able to make one up.

NW said that it had to be cleared with the Tree Officer as to whether the proposed bench could be placed under the cherry tree.

NW

This matter could be included in the scheme when the new play area is installed and could be funded as part of the play budget.

Some time ago (pre-pandemic) a local resident had contacted us, wanting to place a bench and some trees on the park in memory of his mother. Two trees had been planted but as yet no bench had been installed. NW agreed to look into this matter and ascertain what had happened.

NW

5 Friends of Murray Park Equipment Update

With the £300 left over from the purchase of the table tennis table, following declaration of surplus funds saved, The Racecourse Fund accepted a further application to use the original granted funds to purchase additional equipment; Industrial pop up gazebo, table/cover, and Thermos flask for use by the Group as and when required, possibly an organised litter pick.

TR (Chair)

6 Petty Cash/Bank Update

The Chair (TR) had taken out £7.99 for folders to hold the table tennis equipment at Murrayside. LF repaid £1.49 to SB in respect of Blue Tack to be used when updating notice boards on the park.

TR and LF had been experiencing problems with trying to set up on-line banking for the NatWest account. A further form was required by the bank, which LF was dealing with.

LF

The balance in the bank was approximately £35.

7 Facebook

TR was having problems setting up a Facebook account, which was required owing to her own account being hacked. She was reluctant to have it connected to her personal account again, because of the problems experienced, and was trying to contact the IBC Social Media Team. NW said he would chase this up. The Chair has set up a business Facebook page which is now live.

NW

8 Play Equipment

BQ said that he had some funds in his Locality Budget, and the matter could be raised at the forthcoming South East Area Committee meeting on 9th November. Play equipment should be disability accessible and cater for all age groups. BQ said we should work out what we want and then request it.

9 Any Other Business

a) ME asked why the bird boxes made at the Wildlife Day some time ago had still not been put up. NW said that only members of the Tree Team were allowed to do this, but that the Wildlife Team were going to take basic training to allow them to perform this task.

b) LF reported that a woman on a motorised scooter (ie not a disability one) has been seen crossing the park four times a day, quite rapidly, with a school age child on the front on the first run, then with no child on the return, then again at 3pm.

NW said that motorised vehicles are not allowed on any of the town's parks other than Holywells Park and Christchurch Park. He said he would ask Park Patrol and the Police to deal with this.

NW

- c) NW said that the high nets for the MUGA would be installed soon.
- d) New trees for the orchard and a replacement for Cllr Barber's tree had been ordered, and the ivy had now been removed as requested from a local resident's fence.

In the triangular enclosed area on the North-West corner, two self-set sycamore trees had appeared. NW agreed that they should be removed. The Group discussed making the area look more like a wildlife area than an area of rough ground. It was agreed that a few old logs in that area could achieve this, also providing a stag beetle habitat, as had been discussed a while ago.

NW

- e) DC said that there had been some graffiti on the new toilets.

Someone had stolen the entire hand-washing unit from one toilet.

On the recent Fun Day, there had been some positive feedback on the toilets.

ME reported that one of the doors on the new toilets was bent, however, this appears to have been fixed and was not now a problem

Members approved of the suggestion of a spring on the doors of the toilets so that they shut themselves after use if someone had left the door open.

IBC had obtained a battery powered pressure washer for cleaning the toilets but had found that it was not as powerful as had been hoped.

Members noted that the space between the two toilets was being used for drug deals, and also that parents had been seen taking toddlers there to urinate, rather than go into the toilet itself.

- f) NW said that it may be possible to include a drinking water fountain when the old toilets were demolished.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 23rd November (AGM)