



Friends of Murray Park

Notes of Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 23 November at 7pm at Murrayside Community Centre

Present:

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

Members: Dennis Carpenter, Lisa Brambill, Malcolm and Jenny Ebbs

Also Present: Cllr Bill Quinton

Apologies: Cllr Luke Richardson, Paul Gilbert, Hannah Canning

1 Excluded Persons

There were no excluded persons.

2 Minutes

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

3 Matters Arising/Updates

NW had emailed an update as follows.

- a) The table tennis table signs are ready and would be installed at the same time as the rubber matting at each end of the table. This had been delayed because of the heavy rain experienced in recent weeks.
- b) The ball stop net will also be installed soon on the MUGA.
- c) The old toilet block will definitely be demolished, which should address somewhat the problems with broken glass, drugs etc. A drinking fountain would be installed if this was possible, site to be discussed at the next meeting. (Cllr LR had also updated the Group to this effect.)

- d) NW was aware of recent issues with the compost toilets being fouled and has increased Park Patrol visits during the day to monitor this.

4 Children's Play Area

The planned project to improve the children's play area could not be discussed at this meeting, as there was no IBC representative present. Lisa Stannard (IBC) hoped to attend the next meeting, and in the meantime members were asked to consider themes for the new play area - a racecourse theme was one suggested idea. If members had any other ideas, they were asked to bring these to the next meeting.

All

Other parks in the town had installed "Autism Boards" which used Makaton images. These were known to help youngsters with Autism, as they could easily be overwhelmed by complicated notices and this simple idea allowed them to focus on what they want, eg "Home" or "Toilet" etc.

There was also news of a wheelchair friendly swing, which may be able to be included in the new play area. Both these ideas had received good reviews.

LF asked when the new play area was planned to be installed. She offered to post the plans on Facebook to invite local residents to put ideas forward.

LF

Some ideas currently under consideration were the provision of a shelter and more seating in that area.

The Chair had set up a new Business account on Facebook for the Group, following hacking problems on the old account, but needs further help.

5 Cllr Sarah Barber

The Group were saddened to learn that Cllr Barber had stepped down from her role as Borough Councillor, and would therefore no longer be attending our meetings.

TR had sent her an email thanking her for all she had done for Friends of Murray Park, which has really been appreciated.

The Group sends her our very best wishes for the future. She will be very much missed.

6 Banking/Finance

LF reported that the new bank account with NatWest was still not running smoothly. She and the Chair had been trying to set up on-line banking but despite filling in numerous forms and giving specimen signatures in person, this had not yet been successful. Every time LF has called them to check what progress had been made, the bank have promised to settle the matter, but have still not managed to do so.

In the end, LF had managed to get a statement from them and had made a more detailed spreadsheet, which have both been filed with these minutes.

DC asked how funding, eg for the table tennis table, had been obtained. TR explained that PG had raised the money for this.

7 Election of Officers

There being no other applicants for the roles, and existing officers being willing to continue, it was proposed by DC and seconded by LB that they be re-appointed en bloc.

8 Fundraising

- a) Murrayside Community Centre were going to run a Winter Wonderland event over 3 days (21st, 22nd and 23rd December) and although it would have been advantageous if the Group could have a stall with the aim of recruiting new members and raising funds, there was no-one available to man such a stall.
- b) Cllr BQ reminded members that he had access to Locality Funding which could be made available. The Group just had to submit a plan - this could cover benches round trees, more keep-fit equipment etc.

9 Outstanding Work

At a previous AGM, under "Wish List" the Group had asked if the Cobbold sign at the North West corner gate could be renovated. This was seen as a fairly easy and inexpensive task, but the work has still not been carried out.

The Bird Boxes made some time ago at a Wildlife Day had still not been put up, and the stag beetle habitat had not been installed in the Wildlife Area at the Southern end.

The Chair agreed to chase these matters up with IBC.

TR

10 Any Other Business

- a) There had been reports of a youth standing on top of the climbing frame, using really abusive language and hopping over the wall to the Murrayside premises. The Group wondered whether this was a child with special needs and the Chair agreed to contact Murrayside to see if they knew anything about it.
- b) ME reported that he had observed someone rollerskating on the tennis court and when challenged claimed that he had not seen the “no wheels” notice, as it was too small.
- c) ME had also noticed a dog being walked on the tennis court. The Group had enquired some time ago whether a small area of the park could be fenced off for puppy walking or for exercising unsociable dogs but this had not been seen as a feasible idea.
- d) ME also reported that a fire engine had had to be called to get a youth off the top of the MUGA fence.

TR

11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 18th January at 7pm.