



Friends of Murray Park

Notes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 20th November 2024 at Murrayside Community Centre

Present:

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

Members: Paul Gilbert, Tom and Cailleigh Gorzelak. Malcolm & Jenny Ebbs

Also Present: Cllr Roxanne Downes.

Apologies: Dennis Carpenter, Jill Richardson, Jimmy Knight, Nick Wilcox (IBC)

- | 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 | |
| | NW (IBC) had emailed an update on various matters, as he had been unable to attend the AGM. | |
| | (i) Damaged Notice Board | |
| | The damaged notice board would be repaired shortly. | |
| | (ii) Entrance Sign | |
| | The broken entrance sign has been taken away for repair. Both posts have rotted, and would be replaced soon. | |

(iii) **Wildlife Area**

The Wildlife area and the orchard had been cut back under the direction of the Wildlife Rangers. TR had seen a gentleman his dog into the area and when challenged he said he had not seen any signage prohibiting this. The gate bolt had been fixed.

(iv) **Football Goalposts**

The new goal posts had arrived and will be installed shortly.

4 Finances

The balance in the account was now £602.09 after receiving funding from the IBC Community Fund. The funding was in respect of two extra dispensers and a five year supply of waste bags.

When the order was placed a gift voucher was deducted, resulting in TR being owed £7.82. It was noted that the funding was for dispensers and bags only and should not be used for any other purpose.

The Chair thanked Cllr Downes for organising this funding for us.

JM (Vice Chair) agreed to be the third signatory on the bank account.

5 Election of Officers

All four Officers wished to remain in their posts for the coming year, and were re-elected en bloc as follows, proposed by Paul Gilbert and seconded by Cllr Roxanne Downes.

Chair	Tracy Rowe
Vice Chair	Joanne Mansie
Treasurer	Lesley Fayers
Secretary	Sue Bird

6 Constitution

The Group wanted to update the Constitution of Murray Park Friends, and the following amendments were considered.

(i) **Aims and Objectives**

Update name of park to "Murray Park".

(ii) **Power to Act**

In paragraph 2, change the word “monthly” to “bi-monthly” in both places where it appears.

(iii) **Membership**

In paragraph 1, delete the reference to payment of subscriptions.

(iv) **Management**

In paragraphs 1 and 3, “change the word “three” to “four”, as there are four Officers.

In paragraph 8, “change the wording at the end of the sentence, to read “.....without apology from three consecutive meetings”

7 Refurbishment of Children’s Play Area

Although this had been promised before the end of the year, this now seemed unlikely.

The provision of a drinking fountain was not yet confirmed, but if approved, the Group thought it best that this be situated within the new Play Area, so that everyone knew it was there, rather than tucking it away in a corner.

A shelter rather like a bus shelter was considered, thereby providing cover in the event of rain, but could not be used by rough sleepers.

A double zip wire with a theme of racing horses was thought very appropriate for the planned theme.

The idea of a circular bench around the cherry tree was reiterated, as was the provision of swings for children with disabilities.

The new Play Area would be totally enclosed by fencing, so as to keep dogs out.

8 Any Other Business

(i) **Dog Waste bags/dispensers**

It had been noticed that someone had taken the trouble to clean up the dispensers.

The idea of a QR code was again discussed, to enable dog owners to contribute to the cost of buying bags, and any money received in this way should be ring-fenced for buying bags only. There was also the possibility of a “Click and Walk Away” method.

Going forward, as we would soon have a total of four dispensers on the park, the Chair asked for members to volunteer to be responsible for topping up the bags at particular gates. PG agreed to cover the one at the South East corner.

(ii) **Signage**

The “No Cycling” sign had become detached and had now been replaced.

(iii) **Dog Walking Regulations**

One dog owner (or possibly a professional dog walker) was seen to be taking six dogs onto the park. The regulations regarding this were unclear. The Group thought that in the countryside it was acceptable to have six dogs, it was not thought advisable in a public space like the park.

Cllr Downes offered to speak to NW to clarify the matter. Once we have a ruling, this should perhaps be put on the notice boards, as well as the IBC website.

RD

(iv) **Website**

The last two sets of minutes had not been put onto the website. TR said she would remind GT to do this, as he was still the administrator of the site, despite no longer being a member.

The Group discussed contacting the IBC Social Media Team for their help in possibly appointing additional administrators so that we would not have to continue to trouble GT for this task. TR said she would explore the possibility of being administrator in the future.

TR

11 Date of Next Meeting

The Secretary explained that she would set the dates until the end of the tax year only, and then extend it once IBC had set their meeting dates for 2025. Proposed dates are 15th January, 26th February and 2nd April. No-one at the meeting had any problems with these dates and the Secretary said she would post a Calendar showing these dates on notice boards.