



Friends of Murray Park

Notes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 26th March 2025 at Murrayside Community Centre

Present:

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

Members: Dennis Carpenter, Jill Richardson, Malcolm & Jenny Ebbs

Apologies: Cllr Roxanne Downes, Nick Wilcox (IBC), Paul Gilbert

- | 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 | |
| | (i) Damaged Notice Board | |
| | The damaged notice board had not been repaired, NW had undertaken to chase this matter up, but was not present at the meeting. | NW |
| | (ii) Football Goalposts | |
| | The goal posts should be moved soon. | NW |
| | (iii) MUGA Net | |
| | This still had not yet been fully repaired, reasons were given at the previous meeting. | |
| | (iv) Refurbishment of Children's Play Area | |
| | There was no further news on this. | |

(v) **Waste bags/Dispensers**

A member of the public had been seen repeatedly taking large quantities of bags from the dispensers, despite being told that the bags were provided for use by all park users as an emergency measure only, ie, if they had forgotten to bring bags, or had used all their bags. It was thought that this gentleman would be moving away shortly, so the problem would hopefully solve itself.

Some children had also been seen pulling out long strings of bags.

Police advice on this matter is that, as the bags are provided for use by the public, taking large quantities does not constitute theft.

Someone could take a screen shot of the QR code when the bank provide it, and put signs on the dispensers with a short message explaining that if the public want to donate a small amount to the cost of providing the bags, they could use the QR code.

(vi) **Dog Walking Regulations**

The new bylaws on this subject had been emailed to the group, from which we ascertained that dog owners may bring a maximum of three dogs onto the park.

4 Finance/Banking

The balance in the bank is £472.45. after the purchase of more dog waste bags and repayment of £7 to TR.

The Treasurer said that in the future she wanted to make a separate column on the monthly spreadsheet for the funds spent on waste bags, as this was targeted funding and this would make things clearer.

The Group discussed the possibility of the Vice Chair being a third signatory on the account.

6 Any Other Business

- (i) A local resident reported suspected drug dealing near to the park via the Crime Stoppers website. This resulted in attendance from the Police and we understand that three arrests were made.

The Friends want to thank the local Police for their support in making our area safer, and we encourage everyone to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

- (ii) ME reported that the fence opposite 33 King Edward Road had been broken recently (not by the contractors who had been working close by) and children had been seen going through it.

NW

- (iii) LF said that the cowslips and celandines in the orchard area were looking beautiful. TR said she had thrown some seeds in there. However, there was not much in flower in the Wildlife area at the moment.

The gates on the orchard area were broken and people were letting their dogs go in there. The Group thought that maybe a notice prohibiting dogs because of nesting birds may make a difference.

NW

- (iv) LF offered to reimburse the Secretary for the paper used to print minutes and agenda for our meetings.

- (v) Blue tits were seen in some of the bird boxes last year, and it was thought that if the boxes were empty this year, maybe they could be cleaned out by the Wildlife Team, although it may already be too late.

9 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on 21st May.