



Friends of Murray Park

Notes of Meeting held on Wednesday 4th September 2024 at 7pm at Murrayside Community Centre

Present:

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

Members: Dennis Carpenter, Paul Gilbert, Jill Richardson, Jimmy Knight,
Paul Blacker, Caileigh Gorzelak. Malcolm and Jenny Ebbs

Also Present: Nick Wilcox (IBC), Cllr Roxanne Downes.

Apologies: Sue Bird (Secretary)

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) Goalposts

NW had received approval to order new goalposts and have them installed prior to the planned refurbishment of children's play area. NW would be ordering 3 sets of sockets so that a spare set could be used at a later date when necessary. Once ordered, they would be delivered within a couple of weeks.

It was reiterated that all IBC football pitches are not available for pre-booking by teams, and are used on a strictly first come first served basis. This was mainly because there was no-one available to manage this.

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

A bid for funding of £415 has been submitted, for 2 extra dispensers and a 5 year supply of bags.

A request for a QR code for public donations has been requested from our bank.

(iii) **Refurbishment of Children's Play Area**

TR is collating photo ideas for the new play area, and again encouraged members to post any desirable photos to the FaceBook page, which would then be passed on to NW to discuss with the company which provided the successful tender. NW would investigate the budget amount. A zip wire and large round swing have been requested several times.

The Autism boards mentioned previously have also received good feedback. NW said that Sidegate Lane Primary and Gusford Primary Schools have been in touch asking where they can be acquired, and IBC are looking into having some made up.

The old aeroplane climbing frame will be removed when the play area is refurbished, but some park users had asked what would happen to it, as some children still used it. An auction for the plane was discussed and will be explored further. NW said that IBC had no objection to the idea, as they would only be able to get the scrap metal value for it.

An official opening of the newly refurbished play area was mentioned, and is something to be discussed and arranged nearer the time as work schedules shift.

TR said she was willing to look into whether a solar powered light may be feasible to illuminate the new play area.

TR

(iv) **New Toilets**

LF asked whether the toilet door had been fixed. NW said that it had not been reported lately, so he thought it may be ok now. He asked LF to report any issues directly to him.

NW confirmed that the maintenance of the toilets and our play area refurbishment would not be affected by the recently announce budget cuts.

The graffiti on the side of the toilet had been mentioned and NW said that IBC are looking at doing something about it at the same time as the refurbishment of the play area.

4 Finances

There was no change since the last meeting, and a balance of £217.25 remains in the bank account. TR and LF agreed to explore sourcing some bright pink bags in an effort to deter people from taking too many, and also make them more obvious if left on the ground.

5 Any Other Business

(i) Trees

NW said that the public were permitted to pick fruit from the trees in the small fenced off areas at the North end, provided people treat the area responsibly and are considerate of others.

JR asked whether the dead trees could be replaced with Rowan trees – the park now had a mixed variety of trees. NW thanked LF for the list of trees with issues.

The tree which had been planted commemorating Cllr Bill Quinton's long and valuable service to the park and the town in general, appeared to be struggling, but this may be because it is a larger tree than those usually planted, and may therefore take longer to become established.

(ii) There is a lady who regularly visits the park to throw stale bread down for the birds, despite being asked several times not to do so. She now throws the bread into the wildlife area.

LF asked whether a notice could be put up asking people not to do this. NW agreed to look into ways to stop this, and will make Park Patrol aware.

He said that the wildflowers should be mowed soon, which may deter her from doing this.

(iii) Members had seen several adults frequently playing football in the tennis court. NW said Park Patrol would move them on if they happened to see them.

(iv) Several holes had appeared on the park, presumably dug by dogs. JM said she had some spare soil in bags in her front garden which she was willing to donate to be used to fill holes, or maybe for backfilling when the goalposts were installed.

11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Murray Park Friends (AGM) would be held on Wednesday 20th November at 7pm, at Murrayside Community Centre, when part of the meeting will involve reconfiguring the Constitution of the Group.