

## FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK

### Minutes of meeting held at the Woodthorpe Grange on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018

#### Present:

Alex Staniforth – FoWGP Chair	Anne Spalton	Janet Grimley
Paul R Swift	Sue Bearman	Colin Rae
Mavis Broomhall	David Monkton	David Selman
Matt Wilson	Janice Farr	Martin Harris – NCC Parks

#### Welcome

The Chair, Alex Staniforth welcomed everyone to the meeting at The Grange.

#### Apologies

Marian Staniforth, Maureen Draper, Laura Archer, Peter Loewenstein, Bridget Baguley

#### Minutes of the previous meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017

The minutes were taken as a true record of that meeting.

#### Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

- Dell Garden: now completed. The memorial tree, which will be a Magnolia, has arrived and will be planted mid-February
- Felled trees on the park: removed off site; some logs left.
- The extensive work on the park (adjacent Mansfield Road and Woodthorpe Drive) due to upgrading the water pipe/drainage network has now been completed.
- Food Market: nothing has been confirmed at present.

#### Additional Input to the above

- Matt Wilson thought the Three Pre-Christmas events at the Plant Shop and Horticultural Greenhouses had been successful despite the cancellation of the seasonal play due to the snow preventing the actors coming up all the way from Cornwall.
- Play Area: Matt will put in an application in the spring. He is in consultation with a company who specialise in playground equipment.
- Colin Rae expressed his disappointment at the lack of diversity for age groups across the park.
- The Great British Spring Clean 2018: This is scheduled to take place nationwide over the weekend period 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed the Friends organise a session on the park for this event.

#### Woodthorpe Grange Park Updates

- Green Flag Awards: This will shortly be coming up again.
- This is the quiet period of the year thus very little is being spent; however, money will be available from April onwards.
- Steve Doughty, one of the Park Rangers has now left to become a full-time fireman. It is hoped a replacement will shortly be forthcoming?
- Proposed Plant Shop Café: This is still on hold until adequate finances are found.
- Play Area: The Parks Department will support the bid for an extended and expanded up date of the Play Area.
- Matt Wilson briefed the meeting on the need and advantages of the Friends having financial resources. He informed them a bank account had been opened in anticipation of future funding.
- Paul Swift has opened a dedicated website for the Friends. He made a presentation at the meeting. This is another useful innovation to publicise the Friends and the work they do for the park. This is in addition to our already established Facebook site.

**Volunteering Updates**

The next volunteering session will take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February between 1.00 pm and 3.00 pm. Meet at the entrance to the Grange as usual.

**Any other business (AOB)**

- The suggestion was again aired of informal meetings to discuss volunteering events could be held between bi-monthly Friends meetings.
- Colin Rae praised the decision to have a Christmas tree display at the Mansfield Road entrance. It caught the eye and was a good advert for the park.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of The Friends will take place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at the Grange commencing at 6.30pm.

E&OE