

FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK

Minutes of meeting held at the Meeting Room, Winwood Court, Chestnut Walk, Nottingham NG5 4DW Wednesday 29th January 2020

Present:

Alex Staniforth – Chair Paul Swift – Vice-Chair Marian Staniforth - Secretary Matt Wilson – Treasurer
Janice Farr Mavis Broomhall Ann Spalton Janet Grimley
Peter Loewenstein Anna Dixon Helena Shipston Bill Shipston
Peter Russell James McDonnell
Leonie Brown – Greenspace Development Officer, Nottingham City Council

Welcome

The Chair, Alex Staniforth welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Laura Archer, Anne Bentley, David Selman, Esme Thomson, Lauren O'Grady.

Minutes of the previous meeting held 27th November 2019

Leonie missed funding for Pocket Park but will apply again in October/November 2020. Other monies may be available. Plans will have to be submitted for area in the park to be looked after by the volunteers. Except for the above, the minutes of that meeting were taken as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

No matters were raised.

Woodthorpe Grange Park Updates

- Leonie informed the meeting that a bid had been secured (£64,000 plus £16,000) for improvements to the café area and playground and the installation of the proposed Green Gym.
- A small number of dog owners do not control their animals (perennial problem) and there will now be a 'No Dog Area'. Seating is to be moved and the Table Tennis set-up is to be relocated.
- Tracks caused by vehicle movement on the park will be repaired in due course when the ground conditions improve.
- There are no plans to close the Pitch and Putt course. The lack of maintenance is an issue; it could see the present area reduced in size.

Volunteering Updates

- Three mature Oak trees (10-12 feet in height and from seed taken from Sherwood Forest) were planted in the park on Saturday 30th November 2019 under the auspices of the Nottingham Open Spaces Forum as part of the exciting new People Forest project. Marian and Alex Staniforth attended on behalf of the Friends – and Robin Hood came along too! The occasion was featured in the local media.
- A similar event took place on Wednesday 18th January 2020 when 800 or so 'whips' of Rowan and Birch were planted on the lower slopes of the park adjacent to the pathway leading up to Sherwood Vale. Initially, they were very lightly enclosed with canes and barrier tape which soon blow away during the windy weather leaving them highly vulnerable to being trampled on by the public. Updates: 1) The barrier tape and canes were subsequently put back in place by Alex Staniforth and two volunteers who came to our Winter Litter Pick on Saturday 25th January 2020 and 2) The above has now been replaced with stout stakes and wire mesh fencing and is much more secure.

Upcoming Events

- A suggestion was made to have an event to sweep up the leaves in the Sunken Garden and surrounding area. Leonie will check to see if this is feasible.

Any other business (AOB)

Again, the matter of membership was raised, and a motion was proposed and passed that this was finalised at the upcoming AGM on the 25th March 2020. **Meeting Cancelled Due to Coronavirus**

The mosaics near the café need maintenance work doing costing (estimate) £250.00 – Leonie to special paint for Anna to carry out this work.

Community Vegetable Garden: a suggestion was put forward to look into the feasibility of this idea.

Events on the park: if we are to have more, for example, a bird watching session then more information would need to be made available to bring them to the public's attention.

Paul Swift gave a comprehensive talk including a PowerPoint presentation as a foreword to the Centenary of the Park in 2022. It was agreed that a public meeting highlighting the Centenary should be held to set the ball rolling. A suggested date for this was Wednesday 22nd April 2020, the venue being the Sherwood Community Centre, Mansfield Road. A two-hour session commencing at 7.00 pm was agreed. The Chair said he would make the necessary booking with the Centre **Meeting Cancelled Due to Coronavirus**

Next Meeting

The next meeting of The Friends, which is the Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th March 2020 at the Meeting Room, Winwood Court, Chestnut Walk, Nottingham NG5 4DW commencing at 6.30pm. **Meeting Cancelled Due to Coronavirus**