

## FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK

### Minutes of meeting held at the Woodthorpe Grange on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018

#### Present:

Alex Staniforth – Chair	Janet Grimley	Paul R Swift
Anne Bentley	Janice Farr	Anne Spalton
Matt Wilson	David Monkton	Marian Staniforth
Martin Harris – NCC Parks Technical Officer		

#### Welcome

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

#### Apologies

Mavis Broomhall, Laura Archer, Anne Baddeley.

#### Minutes of the previous meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018

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

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

- Clarification was given regarding safety work on trees alongside paths.
- The idea of a season long ticket commencing next year for the Pitch and Putt participants was raised and is to be followed up.
- It was observed that the Formal Gardens were rather neglected of late. It is regrettable but cuts to staff numbers haven't helped the matter.
- Following on from Paul Swift's suggestion (previous meeting) that volunteers from the Friends check and empty where appropriate the litter bins at weekends it was decided to trial this at the Hospice Event which will be staged on the park on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August.

#### Woodthorpe Grange Park Updates

- Alex Staniforth is contacting the Ward Councillors for Sherwood Ward, which includes the park, on the matter of applying for funding from their Budgets to purchase equipment etc. to enable the Friends to carry out their voluntary work. Initially this would be to purchase litter pickers, protective gloves, litter bags and a small range of garden tools. It also would include publicity and marketing material, for example a pull-up display highlighting the park and the Friends to use at every available event on the park. Perhaps could be sited in the Plant Shop when not being used elsewhere?
- No further progress to report on the proposed café at the Plant Shop.
- The Food Market which was sited at the Mansfield Road entrance will not be returning.
- The newly planted Magnolia along with other trees in the park is looking distinctly brown due the prolonged hot spell.
- Playground Update: No further consultation has taken place. Matt Wilson will obtain full information regarding the recently opened playground at Arnot Hill Park. Obviously, funding will be required for any upgrade to the current playground on WGP.
- As a way to encourage more people to become involved and sign up as a 'Friend' then perhaps as an incentive they are offered a 5% or 10% discount at the café and the Plant Shop? This would, of course, entail providing membership cards for both newcomers and existing 'Friends'.
- Paul Swift suggested a social event for the Friends at the end of the year. This needs to be firmed up. Paul also reported that the Friends website had 992 hits.

#### Upcoming Events

- As mentioned previously there will be a summer event on the park on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August in aid of the Nottinghamshire Hospice. The Friends have been kindly given space by the organisers to promote themselves.

- Christmas Event at the Plant Shop: preparations are already being put in hand to promote this.

### **Volunteering Update**

A third Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August commencing at 11.00 am at the Plant Shop. AS previously litter pickers and rubbish bags will be provided. An invitation to the local Ward Councillors to participate will be sent out before the event.

A suggestion put forward by Anne Spalton for tee-shirts with the Friends logo received general approval.

Ward Councillor Funding: As reported earlier in updates this is underway. The Chair showed the meeting a copy of the Project Information Form. Matt Wilson added the councillors hold a 'surgery' outside the Co-op in Sherwood every month and circulate a newsletter titled 'My Sherwood.'

Paul Swift has obtained information regarding the cost etc. of flyers from Office Outlet.

### **Any other business (AOB)**

Paul Swift reported youngsters setting fire to rubbish under the former railway bridge on Sherwood Vale which spread to an adjacent property. Trees caught fire and there was the immediate risk of a gas fired barbeque exploding. The fire brigade arrived just in time to prevent this. Paul also reported that there were large amounts of rubbish under the bridge that required moving. He suggested the local councillors visit the area and see for themselves the problem. An invitation was extended for them to participate in the upcoming litter pick.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of The Friends will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at the Grange commencing at 6.30pm.

E&OE