

## FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK

### Minutes of meeting held at The Grange on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019

#### Present:

Alex Staniforth – Chair	Janice Farr	Paul Swift	Mavis Broomhall
Janet Grimley	Marian Staniforth	Anne Spalton	Matt Wilson
David Monkton	Pauline Mordue	Anne Bentley	
Leonie Brown – Greenspace Development Officer			

#### Welcome

The Chair, Alex Staniforth welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### Apologies

Laura Archer, John Hackett, Peter Loewenstein

#### Minutes of the previous meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019

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

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

- Paul Swift told the meeting he had received an email from the Nottinghamshire Hospice informing him the Special Event 'Party in the Park' scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> August has been cancelled. No clear reason was given. In its place it was agreed to hold another litter pick on that day.
- Concern was raised about cyclists on the paths within the park. The main bones of contention being riding too fast and no indication of them coming i.e. no bell or similar warning. It was pointed out that they had the right to ride on the main path through the park.
- It was also reported a lady had been injured and required hospital treatment following an incident with a dog chasing a ball near the café.
- Looking after and attending the gardens in the park. Currently two gardeners are employed to carry out work within the park though they would be employed elsewhere when the need arises. It has been confirmed that FoWGP volunteers will now have a dedicated area set aside for them to look after and eventually have it marked with a plaque acknowledging the Friends' work. Volunteering sessions will be arranged on a regular basis – see Upcoming Events.
- It was mentioned the Playground and adjacent area require cleaning up and a programme of volunteering sessions would be needed (?). Likewise the Pitch and Putt Course requires regular maintenance (?).

#### Woodthorpe Grange Park Updates

- It was pointed out that no memorial plaques would be placed on the trees within the park but they could be attached to the numerous existing benches or any future dedicated bench.
- A suggestion was made that any new trees and benches could be sponsored – needs to be investigated. Also, any new trees planted could be listed on a future WGP Tree Trail Leaflet.
- FoWGP Membership: this has already been discussed several times in the past but now needs to be taken forward seriously. Membership fees will help keep a healthy balance in our accounts and rely less on outside funding. It would make a contribution to any further equipment that may be required for our expanding gardening interests. Our current A5 size flyers are a useful recruiting tool. Also, the question of discounts associated with membership of the Friends i.e. at the café and the Plant Shop will be taken a step forward and hopefully a definitive response will be had by the time of the September meeting. Membership matters will to be one of the main topics at the September meeting.
- Leonie recently organised a consultation questionnaire for park users the aim of which was to enable comment on how the park could be developed within the area of the café and play area. It received a better than expected response. Full details should be available at the September meeting.

- The Friends welcomed a new face at the meeting, a lady (Pauline Mordue?) who offered to help in the Tropical House. She was formerly a horticulturist and has extensive knowledge of tropical plants which could prove a valuable asset to the Friends. She pointed out the fact that the screening on the top of the Tropical House needs cleaning.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- The Friends will be running another promotion event on the Summer Bank Holiday Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2019 similar to that held at the Spring Bank Holiday.
- As mentioned earlier a further Litter Pick will take place on the park on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019
- The first organised gardening event will take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in the Formal Gardens. It will be in the manner of an introductory session combined with practical work. Tools will be provided.

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

- It may be recalled from earlier minutes this year that the Friends had been approached by a lady (Chris Baxter) from Trevoise Gardens interested in planting/maintaining a small coppice of willow in the Dell Garden and being responsible for its upkeep etc. No decision was made at the meeting; we need to provide a response to the proposal.
- The Centenary of Woodthorpe Grange Park 2022. Paul Swift to set up an open meeting ref this event with a view to involving the whole community. The plan is to invite as many people as possible to take part. The meeting will take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at the Sherwood Community Centre, Mansfield Road. Time to be confirmed.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of The Friends will take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at **The Grange** commencing at 6.30pm.

E&OE