

## FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK

### Minutes of meeting held at the Sherwood Community Centre on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

#### Present:

Alex Staniforth – Chair	Janice Farr	Paul Swift	Matt Wilson
Anne Bentley	Marian Staniforth	Esme Thomson	David Monkton
Anne Spalton	Peter Loewenstein	John Hackett (Trevose Gdns Nbhd Watch)	
Martin Harris – NCC Parks Technical Officer			

#### Welcome

The Chair, Alex Staniforth welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### Apologies

Laura Archer, Mavis Broomhall, Maureen Cooper, David Selman

#### Minutes of the previous meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019

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

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

Two full-time gardeners have been employed and are based at the Grange. However, they will be working at other locations throughout the city. Friends' volunteers could assist by taking on tidying up duties.

#### Woodthorpe Grange Park Updates

- A cabinet for storing the Friends tools has now been established in the Horticultural area. Access to the contents is with a combination lock.
- The Park is again going for a Green Flag Award.
- Alteration including structural strengthening continues at the Grange; work should be completed either April or May.
- The Park has received several injections of cash from various sources: Ward Councillors award £25,000; a further £25,000 from a recent housing scheme that came in under budget; added to this is an additional £100k - £125k allocated for work on the Park from Landfill Tax gains.
- There are plans to increase the size of the current allotments adjacent to the park. This would use land currently where the orchard is and part of the slope behind. Also, there is the potential for the area around the café to be resurfaced plus an Outdoor Gym. The Friends Group to write a letter of support (obtain details). Funding bid in by end of June.
- Other items of note are: trees to be planted as Memorial Trees; records to be kept of Memorial benches; alternatives car park arrangements for gates being locked.
- Views were expressed on the matter of dogs on leads at the café area and the enforcement of no cycling on public footpaths.

#### Upcoming Events

- There will be a Friends Day at the Park on Bank Holiday Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Arrangements to be made to include a gazebo, table and the Friends pull-up display banner.
- Possibility of a funfair end of May, early June.

#### Volunteering Updates

There were no updates at this meeting.

#### Any other business (AOB)

- The Friends heartily thanked Martin for all the contributions and advice given to them over the past year.

- The Chair had received an email from a lady who lives in Trevoise Gardens and would like to plant willows in the park and harvesting it. For the Friends information it is shown in full below. Any further comments in addition to those made at the meeting?

*Dear Alex*

*I live on Trevoise Gardens and have had your email address passed to me by the Neighbourhood Watch group. I hope it is OK to contact you. As you may guess from the email address I make baskets, many from willow, I have lived in the area for over 20 years and know Woodthorpe Park extremely well (having lived on Sherwood Vale before moving to Trevoise) I am therefore well aware of a little coppice of willow near the dell garden that has looked increasingly forlorn over the years and wondered if I could volunteer to take some responsibility for coppicing this? I would remove the willow from the site, I'd love to say I could use it but I'm not sure it will be fit for purpose - but it may be useful for hurdle material or something similar.*

*I grow some willow myself and, if agreeable, would like in the future to supplement the area with some other willow that would provide some nice colour interest, I have heritage varieties that are linked to Nottingham's past as a grower of willow and basket producing area (the largest in the UK at one point in the 19th Century) obviously I would not plant anything without express permission.*

*There is a much larger willow tree behind the bench there which could do with pruning, this may be a little large for me, but if you were in agreement I could look into trying to reduce the height of that also.*

*Please do let me know what you think, my motivation in this is to improve the look of the park and conserve what we have (It is possible that the yellow willow is Salix Alba Basfordiana, a local willow - hence the name)*

*I'd be grateful for your thoughts,*

*Many thanks*

*Chris Baxter (Ms, but you can call me Chris!)*

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of The Friends will take place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at the **Sherwood Community Centre** commencing at 6.30pm.

E&OE