

FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK

Minutes of meeting held at the Woodthorpe Grange on Wednesday 30th May 2018

Present:

Alex Staniforth – Chair
Anne Bentley
Matt Wilson

Janet Grimley
Janice Farr
Martin Harris – NCC Parks Technical Officer

Paul R Swift
Anne Spalton

Welcome

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

Apologies

Mavis Broomhall, Marian Staniforth, Peter Loewenstein, David Monkton

Minutes of the previous meeting incorporating both the first FoWGP Annual General Meeting held 28th March 2018 and the previous bi-monthly meeting held 31st January 2018

The minutes were taken as a true record of those meetings.

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings

- Accounts: Precise details will become clearer when the recently set-up bank account becomes active. At present there are no funds in the account but this will change in the next few months.
- Funding: Matt will follow this up when we have finalised the Constitution. This is to be treated as a priority.
- Matt has drawn up a preliminary list of essential items to augment the work of the Friends. This includes a pull-up display unit (for publicity and like events), Hi-Viz tabards for work volunteers, and business cards for publicity to promote the Friends.

Woodthorpe Grange Park Updates

- No further updates on the long awaited café in the Plant Shop area.
- Surface area around the café and golf hut area: long-standing problem, possible solutions include artificial grass, other options are under consideration. Funding is an important factor.
- No special events have been planned for the near future.
- There is no future news on the return of the food market.
- Some good news: Fifty young oaks have been planted at various locations around the park; they are doing okay at present.
- New: the promised Magnolia tree has been planted and is looking healthy.
- New: the Park is hoping to upgrade the footpath leading up from the Flats complex. The contractors have been approached to carry the work.
- Change of name: The parks used to come under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Open Spaces Department; this is now the Neighbourhood Service which has led to an internal reorganisation.
- Pitch and Putt on the Park: Matt raised the question of having a season ticket for regular users. This could not only promote the amenity but increase usage.
- Playground upgrade: Matt has been tracking the upgrade at Arnot Hill Park in Arnold. As regards WGP because the playground is relatively young it doesn't qualify for major funding. Until we get an indication of obtaining funding from outside sources e.g. Ward Councillors Funding nothing will be moved forward.
- Trees in the Park: trees along the major paths are prioritised as regards safety aspects.
- The leaning wall near the Mansfield Road Entrance: these have now had the scaffolding taken away and part has become a potential danger once again. It is not Nottingham City Council's responsibility but a watching brief is being kept on the situation.

Volunteering Update

- Walled Garden (part of): to be set aside for the volunteers. Matt will make overtures to the appropriate council personnel.
- Paul suggested we checked the litter bins at weekends and used our volunteers to empty them. They would, of course, be kitted out accordingly.

Upcoming Events

Paul has planned a further 'Walk and Talk' on the history of the Park. This will take place on Sunday 24th June and will start from the café at 2.00 pm.

Any other business (AOB)

Celebrating the Centenary of the Park 2022. Paul suggested as a lead up to this milestone event we draw up a Story Sheet (to be flagged up on our website and Facebook pages) asking the public for their memories, reminiscences etc. and any other ideas relating to the subject.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of The Friends will take place on Wednesday 25th July 2018 at the Grange commencing at 6.30pm.

E&OE