

FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK

Minutes of meeting held at the Sherwood Community Centre on Wednesday 29th May 2019

Present:

Alex Staniforth – Chair	Janice Farr	Paul Swift	Mavis Broomhall
Janet Grimley	Marian Staniforth	Esme Thomson	Elaine Williams
Alan Williams	Anne Godfrey	John Hackett (Trevose Gdns Nbhd Watch)	
Anne Spalton			
Martin Harris – NCC Parks Technical Officer		Leonie Brown – Greenspace Development Officer	
Adam Pickering – Nottinghamshire Hospice			
Julia Townsend & Barbara Bernard – Winwood Community Centre			

Welcome

The Chair, Alex Staniforth welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Matt Wilson, Colin Wray, Karen Price

Important change in the Parks and Open Spaces Department

Martin Harris told the meeting that there had been a reorganisation in the Parks & Open Spaces Department which would entail him taking on other tasks outside of the Parks environment. His new position means he will be severing his links with the Friends. However, to succeed him, the Council have appointed Leone Brown to be the new Greenspace Development Officer, whom the Friends will be liaising with on all future matters concerned with the park.

Minutes of the previous meeting held 27th March 2019

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

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

- Janice Farr was concerned that some work on the park appears left unfinished and in an untidy state. She requested information and an update on the state of the gardens.
- The perennial complaint of cyclists not giving warning when cycling on the main thoroughfare though it was pointed out that they can cycle on the path.
- Allotment holders will be attending a future meeting regarding the extension of the present area onto the lower reaches of the park.
- Code on the Friends' tool cabinet can be changed if necessary.

Special Event on the Park

This will be another 'Party on the Park' this year headed up by the Nottinghamshire Hospice (NH) and take place on Saturday 10th August 2019 from 11.00am to 4.00pm. The meeting was introduced to Adam Pickering from the NH, who will be heading up the event. We can be involved more this time by promoting the Friends through a publicity event similar to that held on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 29th May this year. Among the details revealed were:

- The event will be held nearer the Grange and as many as 40 stalls can be expected.
- Extra toilets will be provided. The question arose about extra parking as the area in front of the refurbished flats complex will be fenced off.
- Stewards will be needed to manage the event.
- Re-use of rubbish will be promoted and no single use plastic.
- A worm composting demonstration will be held.
- A litter pick to be arranged for youngsters accompanied by parents.
- Wild – spirited Kids Nature Trail.
- Publicity for the event will be organised at local schools and businesses.

- Robin Hood Energy to be approached as a possible sponsor.

Woodthorpe Grange Park Updates

- Two full-time gardeners to be based at the Grange but will be available to work at other sites within the city.
- The Dell Garden is to be tidied up. Tony brown, Neighbourhood Operations Manager, Berridge and Sherwood Wards will be in charge of this operation.
- The upgrading and structural work in the Grange has now been completed.
- Capital funding has now been approved to improve the surface around the café area after a public consultation, which may include improvements to the children's play area.
- Memorial trees are to be planted.
- New parking arrangements have been introduced: no entry after 7-15pm but cars can leave now the former Woodthorpe Drive lower entrance has become an 'exit only.'
- Proposed café at the Plant Shop area: this ongoing saga has still to be finalised and no decision has been made to date. Estimated cost likely to be in the region of £25,000.00

Upcoming Events

- There will be a funfair on the part in June.
- Sherwood Football Club presentation day will be held on the park – again in June?

Volunteering Updates

The FoWGP promotion/publicity event held on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 29th May was deemed well worth holding. Our stand attracted a fair number of the public, many of whom were not aware of the FoWGP.

- The matter of starting a Friends membership scheme was again raised. Should there be a yearly subscription or a one off donation? It was suggested having membership card would entitle the holder to have a 10% discount at the Café and Plant Shop. A decision needs be made sooner rather than later whether a membership scheme is feasible.
- It was agreed that working in the park's gardens needs to be organised on a more formal basis for volunteers. The Chair will liaise with the new Greenspace Development Officer.
- The Friends' Publicity Officer, Paul Swift will be giving a talk on the history of the Park on Thursday 11th July at nearby St Martin's Church. This will include new material Paul has gathered over recent months.

Any other business (AOB)

- In the previous minutes (May) the Chair notified the Friends he had received an email from a lady who lives in Trevoise Gardens, Chris Baxter who would like to plant/maintain little coppice of willows in the Dell Garden and take responsibility coppicing it. We need to let Chris know if this is acceptable.
- Paul Swift reported his request for poetry about the Park has really taken off and us being posted on the FoWGP website.
- A reminder was made to the Friends about planning for the 2022 Centenary of the Park.
- Two lady representatives from the nearby Winwood Community Centre gave the meeting an update on the extensive work that has been carried out at the complex over the last two years. Included in the scheme is a Roof Top Community Garden, an outdoor Green Gym nearby and a new car park. Additionally, a time capsule will be planted on the roundabout, new garden areas to be planted up around the complex and a new Chestnut tree will be included. The Friends were told the official opening will be Wednesday 7th December 2019. Of interest there will be a Multi-functional Community Room which could be made available for future Friends' meetings

And finally...

The Friends heartily thanked Martin for all the time spent, contributions made and advice given to them over the past half dozen years or so and wished him all the very best in his new posting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of The Friends will take place on Wednesday 31st July 2019 either at the **Sherwood Community Centre or The Grange** commencing at 6.30pm. Final decision to be confirmed.

E&OE