

FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK

Minutes of meeting held at the Woodthorpe Grange on Wednesday 26th September 2018

Present:

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| Alex Staniforth – Chair | Janet Grimley | Anne Bentley |
| Anne Spalton | Marian Staniforth | Matt Wilson |
| David Selman | Martin Harris – NCC Parks Technical Officer | |

Welcome

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

Apologies

Mavis Broomhall, Paul Swift, Janice Farr, David Monkton, Peter Loewenstein

Minutes of the previous meeting held 25th July 2018

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

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Matt was asked by Pro-Liede(?) about playground improvement. He will have another discussion with them.

Woodthorpe Grange Park Updates

- Martin (NCC) informed the meeting regarding travellers ‘invading’ the Park recently. They left a mess, and the police attended when bailiffs moved in to evict them. They had also been removed from a park in Bulwell. The gate, where they obtained entry onto the site, has now been obstructed with heavy concrete blocks.
- It was learnt that funding (approx. £27,000) for the park had been obtained following the successful outcome of a recent planning gain success. This could result in possible improvements to the playground and the installation of an outdoor gym. It might also pay for improvements to the area around the café. Decisions about these gains are to be made within a year.
- It was reported that there is insufficient funding (at present) for the proposed café at the Plant Shop.
- The Food Market was confirmed as finished.
- Magnolia in the Dell Garden has recovered from the long, hot, dry summer.
- No feedback as yet about discount at the Plant Shop and café.
- There is only one gardener on site at present. Other workers have been seconded to Nottingham City Homes or moved to other jobs around the city.

Upcoming Events

As intimated earlier in the year there will be a Christmas Event at the Plant Shop. Details have now been finalised and are as follows:

There will be four ‘Festive Family Fun Weekends’ on 24th-25th November, 1st-2nd, 8th-9th and 15th-16th December. The Friends will have a space in the glasshouses to promote themselves.

Volunteering Updates

- Volunteers are wanted to look after the Tropical House.
- It seems tools etc. can be made available to Friends’ volunteers as they are stored on site under lock and key. Arrangements would have to be put in place to take advantage of this opportunity.
- Councillor Adele Williams took part in the litter pick in August; 10 volunteers took part.
- Next event could be weeding in the Formal Gardens or possibly elsewhere if suitable.
- It was suggested that low maintenance flowering shrubs might be an option in some of the flower beds and use bark as mulch. Chippings also would be useful.
- Marian and Alex Staniforth have commenced cutting/trimming the low height Box hedges in the parterres. There are a total of 20 to be attended to.

Any other business (AOB)

- Friends publicity materials needed for Pre-Christmas Events could include: A5 flyers, business cards and a pull-up banner display, the first two items could be put in local libraries and nearby Sherwood Community Centre.
- A series of emails from Janice Farr to Martin Harris containing various observations, views and suggestions was presented at the meeting. It was agreed that in the absence of Janice this item should be held over to the next meeting in November.
- A formal application is to be forwarded for funding from the Sherwood Ward Councillors' Budget. Matt will put the matter in hand.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of The Friends will take place on Wednesday 28th November 2018 at the Grange commencing at 6.30pm.

E&OE