

FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK

Minutes of meeting held at The Grange on Wednesday 25th September 2019

Present:

Alex Staniforth – Chair Janet Grimley John Hackett Glyn Archer
Paul Swift – Vice-Chair Laura Archer Esme Thomson David Selman
Leonie Brown – Greenspace Development Officer

Welcome

The Chair, Alex Staniforth welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Anne Spalton, Marian Staniforth, Mavis Broomhall, Janice Farr.

Minutes of the previous meeting held 29th May 2019

Ref the Centenary of Woodthorpe Grange Park 2022. Paul Swift suggested setting up an open meeting to discuss this event with a view to involving the whole community. The plan was to invite as many people as possible to take part. The meeting would take place on Wednesday 30th November (**should have read September**) 2019 at the Sherwood Community Centre, Mansfield Road. **Update:** see Upcoming Events below for revised information. Other than this item the minutes were taken as a true record of that meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Other than the above correction there were no matters arising.

Priority Items:

Membership structure for the Friends: the following are suggestions how the system should operate.

1. Include all dates of upcoming meetings
2. Methods of membership payment: in addition to cheques possible payment digitally by PayPal? Details of this latter method need to be examined.
3. A fee of £5.00 per annum per person was agreed.
4. If and when a system is set up the Friend's mailing list (currently held at the Grange) will then pass directly to the Friends themselves. We will have to take into account General Data Protection Regulation rules – members should be aware of this.
5. With membership a discount at both the Café and the Plant Shop will become available. To receive these discounts members will need to show their membership cards at those locations.
6. For the above to be implemented this will necessitate recruiting a Membership Secretary, or better still, two persons sharing the post. It was suggested that a mailshot is put on the Friends website and social media advertising the position(s). A provisional deadline of end of October was mooted but not definite.

Woodthorpe Grange Park Updates

- Public consultation for Gym Trails: now going to evaluation; the bid for the funding is in and a final decision is expected in December.
- Playground Tenders: One is already in, another dropped out the competition. This is not yet in the public domain
- Work on the 'mud pit' in the café area will be carried by Christmas (weather permitting and no unforeseen circumstances arising). Playground equipment enhancement, plus gym equipment could be in place/completed early in the New Year.
- From an earlier consultation (a special form was distributed widely) dog issues was a major gripe. It was agreed that extra work would be needed to educate people using the park and not only those who own dogs. Inconsiderate cyclists are also a cause for concern.

Volunteering Updates

The next Gardening Session is scheduled for Saturday 12th October with the option of a further session on the 2nd November – both subject to prevailing weather conditions. Sessions commence at 10.00 am and last approx. two (2) hours.

Upcoming Events

As in 2018 there will be a Winter Festive Event held over the four (4) weekends prior to Christmas at the Plant Shop and Glasshouse area. It is hoped the Friends will again attend this event.

The Centenary of Woodthorpe Grange Park 2022: It was decided to cancel the proposed meeting at the Sherwood Community Centre to discuss and plan for this event on the following grounds:

Perhaps it was a tad premature holding a meeting this early on as we are still in the decade of 2010-2019; better to launch our pitch early next year when we are in the 2020's decade. More likely to attract interest. Also, now we have a new venue to hold our meetings, which is spacious and welcoming, it seemed the right steps to take – and it saved a hiring fee.

Any other business (AOB)

The Woodthorpe Gazette: the latest edition will be available from the 26th September

The recent circus on the park has caused some considerable damage to the immediate area around the site. This is due to a combination of heavy vehicle movement and the heavy rain that was present during the event's duration.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of The Friends will take place on Wednesday 27th November 2019 at a new venue. This will be **the Meeting Room at the newly opened Winwood Court, Chestnut Walk, Nottingham NG5 4DW** commencing at 6.30pm. **The meeting will be a shortened one as it is intended to have a social event/function afterwards. Full details will be on the Agenda for November meeting.**

E&OE