

# **FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK**

## **Notes of Meeting held on 24 January 2024**

### **Attendees**

#### **FoWGP**

Mavis Broomhall  
Ian Broomhall  
Peter Wood  
Linda Wood  
Paul Swift (Chair)  
Derek Stafford  
Matt Wilson

#### **NCC**

Hilary Thrumpston

### **Apologies**

Anne Spalton  
Barbara Coulson  
Janet Grimley  
Jane Barton

### **Agenda**

#### **Item 1 – Matters arising from AGM held on 9 October 2024**

No matters arising outside the items on the agenda for 24 January 2025.

#### **Item 2 - Gravestone**

Peter advised that he had recently spoken to a local heritage expert who has agreed to restore the gravestone at no cost. It was agreed that the group should give some publicity to the restoration works when they take place and to also look to landscape the immediate area surrounding the gravestone.

### **Item 3 – Train Sculpture**

Hilary confirmed that the costs of the work to the sculpture would be £1,137 and that NCC would need to await an extended period of dry weather to enable preparatory works to commence, hopefully in March 2025.

Paul emphasised the need to maintain the sculpture and its immediate surroundings following the works and to ensure that the area remains open and visible to deter vandalism. He also suggested that the sculpture should be re-painted in the colours of the original train company (Great Northern).

Peter advised that he had recently spoken to someone who would be able to supply and install a buffer to accompany the sculpture, again at no cost.

### **Item 4 - Ideas for events this coming year**

Paul advised that he was looking to continue providing illustrated heritage walks, starting from March 2025, ideally providing two on each of the days to enable more people to attend, given the popularity of the most recent talks. Paul also noted that the FoWGP had now been recognised by the Nottingham Civic Society and that there was an opportunity to strengthen links between them and the group.

Peter advised that he would wish to undertake further tree walks and where possible to join in with other groups across Nottingham.

Paul suggested that more structured gardening sessions should be arranged, preferably in the week rather than at weekends in the hope of attracting more participants.

Paul advised that, inspired by the 1845 Enclosure Walk, he was proposing to lead a walk in May around the perimeter of St Martin's Church in Sherwood. This route would include a section through Woodthorpe Grange Park.

Hilary noted that this year will be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tropical house within the park and that the plant centre would be looking to use this as an opportunity to refresh and promote the tropical house.

### **Other Matters**

Matt advised that the group's current balance was £1,504.40.

Paul asked about what was happening with the trees that had fallen in the recent storm. Hilary advised that NCC were waiting for drier weather to enable machinery to access the area and remove the trees without destroying the grass.

Matt asked whether anyone in the group was aware of any current fly-tipping issues within the park. Paul advised that some fly-tipping continued to take place at the entrance to the park from Sherwood Vale, but was not aware of any other areas where this was a problem at present.

Paul asked about the anticipated timescale for any works to repair the steps leading from the vehicular exit to the park down to the Dell Garden, where a barrier was currently in place. Hilary advised that NCC would look to undertake the repairs as soon as possible, but could not give an expected timeframe for this.

Matt noted the group currently has around 30 registered members.

Linda advised that she had recently attended the Nottingham Open Spaces Forum on behalf of the FoWGP and that the group's profile had been raised both by members attending the forum and noting the activities and actions that the group have been undertaking.

Hilary advised that NCC's Head of Parks had recently resigned their post and that a replacement would be recruited, although the new postholder would have a broader range of responsibilities.

### **Date of next meeting**

Friday 2 May 2025 2.00 pm

The meeting ended at 3.00 pm.