

## FRIENDS OF TOWNELEY PARK AGM

Held: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Towneley Hall

1. **Present:** Maureen Frankland, Anne Starkie, Mary McNeile, Andy Buck, Anne Mason, Diane Flynn, Keith Buchanan, Pat Ashton, Pete Ashton, Ian Walton, Margaret Brindle, William Brindle, Richard Moss, Cynthia Moss, John Nuttall, Shaun Foxcroft, Martin Walker, Alex McDonagh, Bea Foster, Pat Colbran, Roger Leach, Ann Starkie, Ken Darwen.

**Apologies:** Pauline+Wilf Hague, Margaret Crane, Ronnie Pollard, Kathy Noble, June Pritchard, Susan Barker and Grayson Holden

Minutes of the last AGM meeting read and accepted as correct. Let Maureen know if you have amendments to these minutes.

2. **An address from Andy and update of local parks etc in the Borough.** Gave a big thanks to all FOTP for their help over the last year – Wool 'n ' Wood, Bonfire night, Trails, Flower beds (FOTP maintain 3 of them), planting, Woodland Festival and other projects. Also a big thank you to all the volunteers who have given their time and energy to help with projects over the last year. Gave a staff update. Steve the Head Gardener is off ill, Rob is off on Paternity leave (he and his wife have just had a baby girl named Autumn) so they have also retained Emma who is now a second year Apprentice and Callum, the new Apprentice who are temporarily "in charge".  
Gave info on new driving range at The Prairie – now open with a Golf Pro called James accepting bookings.  
Update on Bonfire night coming up in a couple of weeks.  
Bee Hives in Queens Park – vandal proof hives, with one to go in Towneley. Comments made regarding safeguarding the patent design for these.

AB

Maureen gave thanks to Andy on behalf of FOTP and all present for the work the gardeners have done over the last year and good liaison between groups.

3. **Ken Darwen**  
Gave a report and update on the hall and park. Just lost out on a Gold award by two points with the English Tourist Board. Work to be done in the hall to rectify this and hopefully get it next year. He thanked everyone for all their help over the last year in the park and looks forward to working together to improve and promote Towneley this next year.

Pete A

4. **Trustees Report** - Pete Ashton, Maureen Frankland, Pat Colbran and Ronnie Pollard

Update given by Pete ref Secretary post. Trustees meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September – concern regarding the presentation and timing of minutes of meetings. Decided to ask Linda to step down due to her other commitments. Linda agreed to do this and the Trustees wrote and sent her a letter of thanks for her help during her post as Secretary.

Living Legacy – FOTP have received a large donation which the trustees have thought about and made decisions regarding the possible use of the donation.

A vote was taken. All agreed to keep the Trustees in their positions for the next year.

MF

5. **Chairman's report** - Maureen circulated a list of all the projects that the FOTP have done over the last year. She gave her thanks to all involved in any way to help the group. Also to Linda and other members of the FOTP for the important roles they have all played.

Thanks given especially for £2000 donation for a new scooter and £10,000 donation (Living Legacy) towards our funds.

Thanks for all who helped with the Wool'n'Wood, how brilliantly well it all went and the superb help from everyone for knitting, helping set it up and keeping the trail clean and

tidy. Lots of fantastic feedback regarding this trail and it has brought many new people to T'ley.

Balsam problem – discussion took place regarding what we can manage to do regarding this never ending problem. Maureen went through the problem of what we want to do and what we should do, regarding staffing levels and personal workloads for herself and others. Everyone must try to keep the workload realistic and for it not to interfere too much with the personal lives of individuals. People to do only what they can.

Ronnie (via Anne Mason) asked regarding the bridge – This is included in the Living Legacy and Maureen will pursue it again with Simon.

Vote of thanks given by FOTP to Maureen for all her hard work and commitment to the group.

RM

6. **Treasurers Report** – Richard gave his report to the meeting. SEE ATTACHED. The income and expenditure leaves the group in a very nice financial situation. Thanks given to Pat for details of money paid in and Maureen for breakdowns of income/ expenditure. Queries raised regarding donations to other groups and paperwork required for the accounts..

Accounts accepted as a true record of the years' finances. Passed by all. Signed by Officers

MF/RM

7. **Board Members** **Chairman** – Maureen Frankland: **Treasurer** – Richard Moss: **Secretary** – Vacant Position: **Vice Chairman** - Pat Ashton. The three filled positions were voted in again for the next year. Secretary position to be covered by different people at the meetings they can attend. Pat C, Margaret C and Diane offered to split the position for the time being until a permanent Secretary can be appointed.

Various

8. **Division of Park**

MF gave info on the division of the park and the areas it has been divided into. These areas are regularly patrolled by the allocated people to spot any areas of concern and help with issues that may arise. Any issues or problems to be reported back to Maureen or gardeners for action. Reports were given from individuals on their chosen patches regarding latest patrols. Main problems are Balsam, litter and general maintenance. Some signs may need cleaning. Could volunteers do this? Possible Council action required: Concrete around bowling green needs repairing. Benches at Causeway bowling green could be used elsewhere.

Bench to be placed in memory of Margaret Pearce's husband on green area on Higher Towneley playing fields near Calder bridge - £400 donated towards this.

ALL

9. **Future Plans**

**Gardening Club** - to carry on as it has been with possible extra 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays as and when required, linked to Re-thinking Parks. Planting of snowdrops and overwintering of dahlias continuing.

MF

**Rethinking Parks** – Simon Geoff has got money from NESTA to help maintain parks. Mow areas once or twice a year, plant with wild flowers. Machines to be bought that reduce workload. Getting private people to mow and keep hay for their efforts. Firewood for burners in park and to be sold as a source of income. More recruitment of volunteers needed. Lyme Walk to be looked at as it has become untidy – link with FOTP & Rethinking parks. Use gardeners and volunteers to help clear this walk. Notices to be done to ask people for help with this. DF mentioned D of E Schemes and community work they do for their awards. Possible contact through local secondary schools etc.

All

**Picnic tables** – it was decided that there are enough at the moment and no funding was required for more at present.

**Bird feeding** list signed up and bird seed provided for members to use. SEE BELOW  
New smaller bird feeders bought by Pat and Richard C and .shown to meeting.

**Councillor Bea Foster** -gave her thanks to FOTP as she left, and stressed that parks are not a statutory responsibility. A big thank you to all Friends of Parks. Rethinking parks money and other funding is being sought to bridge funding gaps. Parks will be helped as much as the Council can within their tight budget restraints.

**Website** -Pat C. agreed that she will continue to maintain this.

**Scooters** - John to continue to clean and check over. Donations – signs to be made for the scooters so that people know about the donation for using them. MF to get information to DF to do some of these.

**Plant sales** from the Italian Garden – do again in 2016. Good amount raised from this.

**Pruning the live wicker and clean and varnish posts** on Smallholdings trail. Ronnie to continue . John to see if he can trim grass around the posts on small holdings trail.

**Newsletter** - Pat A to continue doing the newsletter with Maureen. Any articles for the newsletter are welcome – please write a bit if you can and pass on to Pat. Possible feature on nature shots of birds and animals from local sites. Note in it requesting volunteers for specific activities.

**Bonfire** – new roles Pat + Pete giving out refreshments for volunteers and wander around as stewards. Diane + Pat to see to lost children room. Arrive for 5.30pm or as soon as you can. Ian and John, Maureen and Andrew to manage queues and steward.

**Christmas trail and Santa** – sign up to help etc. Meeting on Monday October 26th to plan this.(Also meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm.) SEE BELOW for December 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Easter** – Trail to continue - hat parade dropped due to lack of interest.

**Mayday** – to be arranged later.

**Strongman** – do parking again if it runs as it is a good fundraiser. **Rangers with authority must** be used as trouble shooters with traffic on Riverside road at busy times.

**Brass band** – Yes

**Heritage + Woodland Festival** – Yes

**Friends Forum** – anyone who wants to go let Maureen or Simon know by October 30th so lunches can be booked for 7<sup>th</sup> November 10.15.

**New gardening shed is now up** – next to the Meeting Room

**Facebook Page** – gained 184 “likes” and Hallow E’en trail promoted to 287 people. General generating more interest.

**Living Legacy** – Plans for the donation – lists given out for people to look at. Little Lime Walk. Installation of the bridge. Wildflower area by the Calder. Childrens Wooden play area. Screened litter bins and benches. Total £12,000/ £12,500 – donation of £10,000 with balance to come out of FOTP funds. Gift aid too complicated and time consuming.

**Superslow Way** – No answer from them. Have not attended this meeting.

**County Councillor Margaret Brindle** - Non statutory services (e.g. Parks) will be cut first by local authorities to help balance books etc. Stocks Massey trust and other small funds are available – please apply if you can, as this may not be available in future years. PC to apply for funding for Towneley News. MF to possibly apply for Stocks Massey in 2016. MB is Chairman of LCC this year and kindly offered her help in any way, if she can.

PC  
JN  
MF/DF

RP  
JN

PA/MF

MF/AJ

MF

MB

## **10. Any Other Business**

Get well card sent round for Steve

Contact details list for filling out

Alex – PHD update on website he has done for this on Towneley Park - paper being published in January and he will be giving a talk on his findings when he can arrange it.

Maureen gave thanks for his help with publicity etc.

Phil Dewhurst has handed in his resignation at Offshoots.

**Meeting Closed at 1.10pm and thanks given to all for attending.**

**Next Meeting – Thursday January 21<sup>st</sup> 10am Friends Meeting Room**

**Next AGM Meeting – October 2016 Date TBC.**