

Please note that

Our next meeting, on WEDNESDAY MARCH 11th at 10am WILL BE HELD IN THE LECTURE THEATRE AT THE HALL.

FRIENDS OF TOWNELEY PARK
Meeting Held January 14th 2015

Present: Linda White, Grayson Holden, Alex McDonough, Steve Wood, Emma Taylor, Maureen Frankland, Keith Buchanan, Ronnie Pollard, Pat Colbran, Andy Buck, Margaret Crane, Richard Moss, Pat Ashton, Pete Ashton

Apologies: June Pritchard, Martin Walker.

1. Maureen Frankland welcomed everyone to the meeting and distributed parking passes, contact sheets to those who had missed the AGM, and registration sheets to be updated. The activity sheet was also circulated.

Matters arising were (a) feedback from LCC regarding crossing on the Holmes. It was decided that, in line with the HLF guidance, we did not want flashing lights on the Holmes as this would detract from the visual aspect. Following a meeting with Unity College, LCC and BBC it had been agreed to make improvements to ensure the crossing is clear to students and motorists, and will therefore be a safer crossing.

(b) Our summer walks would not continue due to the very poor public uptake.
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd July 2014 were circulated in August and everyone was asked that, in future, they contact Maureen or Linda to make any changes to the minutes when the minutes are first received. Copies will then not need to be provided at meetings. Minutes of the 23rd July mtg., were read and approved.

Matters arising were (a) feedback from LCC regarding crossing on the Holmes. It was decided that, in line with the HLF guidance, we did not want flashing lights on the Holmes as this would detract from the visual aspect. Following a meeting with Unity College, LCC and BBC it had been agreed to make improvements to ensure the crossing is clear to students and motorists, and will therefore be a safer crossing.

(b) Our summer walks would not continue due to the very poor public uptake.
3. Treasurer's Report: Richard read this out and copies were circulated. Two donations had been received totalling £450. We have now spent the Lottery Pathways Money. Thanks to Pat for banking our cash. Charity Checkout was discussed and it was decided to spend £100 on joining this project for a 1 year trial. Maureen has received forms for us to join TCV (Trust for Conservation Volunteers) and then gain insurance for the FOTP work in the park. Issues regarding this will be discussed with Simon at the Go to the Parks meeting on Jan.22nd, and in the meantime it was agreed that it would be advisable to ask Simon for written confirmation that we are covered by the Council's insurance as long as we are working as Council volunteers.
4. Officers Report: Andy Buck reported that the new pathways in Coppice and Wilson Woods were progressing, and the tree felling works had been done – wood collected had gone to Offshoots. The new pathways, round Higher Towneley playing fields, towards the river, and from the large Unity swale to Unity College, had been completed, following an application by the Friends to the Lottery Awards for All fund. The £9639 was supplemented by BBC in order to complete both tracks.

Pruning of ivy at Causeway is to be done.

The tennis courts would receive attention under "Tennis for all".

Rounders would be coming back over the summer as it was popular.

The proposed Events List was circulated – there may yet be changes to this. Andy asked for a donation for Brass Band in Towneley and it was agreed that he could have the same as last year.

The apprentice Emma told us a little of her work at Towneley and her training towards NVQ level 2.

Andy had approached S.Goff re: parking monies from Towneley and had not been given a clear response. We will write to Simon regarding this to find out what monies had been received and how it had been spent. Perhaps also speak to Mick Cartlidge at BBC to find out more.
5. Feedback from Trustees: Bank signatories had been changed. All cheques to be signed by two people from Maureen, Pat or Pete.

We now have a Comments box, thanks to Richard Colbran. This will be placed in the foyer for park users to provide responses..

The Charity Commission Annual report had been submitted, with the consent of the Trustees.

The Trustees had discussed other funding issues e.g. Charity Checkout: the need to replace the broken scooter: the potential Heritage and Woodland festival.

6. Feedback from Alex Mc Donough: Re website, he is now putting this together. It may be ready by end of January 2015. He will give feedback from the website in the next 2 months.

7. Feedback from **Ribble Rivers Trust**. Vicky Woods has asked that we report any river bank problems to them through our rep., Susan. Activity / improvement days can then be planned, hopefully with FOTP and additional volunteers.

Bonfire, a success and we are happy to be involved again this year.

Tea at Towneley, raised good monies and was well received, and we will repeat it in 2015.

Santa at Towneley, we will repeat again. Details of arrangements to be agreed later in the year.

8. Spring Activities: **Newsletter**, agreed that we would do a Spring one only, as the Hall is closed during the week over the winter. Spring newsletter underway. Published in March.

9. Bird feeding: Volunteer sheet went round for signatures. Bird seed circulated.

Noticeboards: again list circulated.

Scooters: after much deliberations it was decided to buy a brand new one this year from our reserves.

Schoolchildren visit to daffodils – leave this to schools to arrange.

Wool n Wood trails – Everyone was asked to help set up the Wool n Wood trail in Thanet Lee Wood on 23rd, 24th and 25th March. Official opening on Thursday March 26th when Radio Lancashire will broadcast their programme from the Park from 11am – 12noon with Sally Naden.

Pat Ashton, with help from other volunteers, will arrange the **Easter egg hunt and hat parade** (on Easter Sunday April 5th) –using a different route this year to avoid clashing with the Wood n Wool trail. We would charge £1.

Gardening Club: They will meet again from March onwards on the first Thursday of each month at 10am.

10. AOB: Would we work with ex-offenders attached to our working groups ? Some apprehension about working with them if they do not have supervisors from Rehabilitation with them. Maureen Frankland to find out more details about suitability of this as we are only volunteers ourselves – such as who would be responsible and whose insurance would cover them if they had an accident.

Pat Ashton asked if the group would support her in arranging an October half term Hallow E'en pumpkin hunt. It was agreed that Pat should proceed with this, asking for help where needed.

11. Dates of Meetings:

Wednesday March 11th 10am: Thursday May 14th 10am: Monday June 29th 1.30pm.
AGM to be held on 24th October 2015 at 11. a.m.

PLEASE NOTE: AS THE BOWLING MEETING ROOM WILL BE USED AS A STORE FOR THE WOOL N WOOD EXHIBITS, OUR MARCH MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE LECTURE THEATRE AT THE HALL.

Following the January meeting Pat Colbran has spoken to Jeff Sumner who has suggested we apply to the four local Councillors for Ward Opportunities grants towards the purchase of the new scooter.