

Friends of Towneley Park

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday July 25th

In the Meeting Room

1. **Present:** Maureen Frankland, David Marsden. Pat Colbran. Denise Motley, Ronnie Pollard, Ken Brown, Hazel Greenwood, Mary McNeil, Gill Robinson, Pat and Pete Ashton, Sheila Carr, Barbara Nutter, Margaret Crane, Joanne Wallwork, Sean Kerr (Parks Officer)

2: **Apologies:** June Pritchard, Corinne and Bryan Concah, Judith Hindle, Gillian Atkinson, Keith Buchanan, Dianne Flynn.

3. **Welcome:** Maureen passed round the citation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, and the trophy presented to us by Lord Shuttleworth at the County Hall celebration. A Group photo taken at the event will be framed and put in the Meeting Room. A secure box is to be made to display the Trophy in the Hall Foyer. Lapel badges were given out.

4. **Minutes and Matters arising:** The minutes were passed as a true record.

a) The Portaloo toilet at Barwise has been much appreciated by the public. It is checked, cleaned and restocked weekly with an extra FOTP (thanks, Barbara).

We have to decide how long to keep funding it –Easter to beginning of September or shorter?? A plea to the Council to please include a permanent loo in future budgets.???

b) There are still copies of The Towneley News in stock – members were asked to take some to distribute.

c) The Tesco Bags for Life collection: Our group seems to have collected the most tokens in the May and June period and we are waiting to see how much we can spend on further additions to the Riverside Play area.

d)A group of people from the National Citizens Service Group to meet on **Sat. July 28th** with a work day on Sat. August 3rd. Another NCS group have a work day on **Tuesday August 20th** Maureen & Gill to coordinate, with RRT but **would be glad of help from FOTP on work days.** On August 3rd meet at the shelter near Fullede near the Calder for Balsam Picking. 10.30am Afternoon- gardening etc on Small Lime Walk. On August 20th – details later.

5. **Area Reports:** The areas checked have seen a marked improvement in cleanliness. See the Council report for further info.

Gill has been approached by the Mayor Anne Kelly to join with Unity College to become plastic free by June 2020. (Anne is also Chair of Governors at the school)

The catering outlets in the Park will be encouraged not to have single use plastic.

6. **Council Report:** Sean now deals with requests for memorial benches etc. Donations are to come through FOTP so that gift aid can be claimed.

The cost of metal benches including a plaque is £800. Wooden (sustainable oak) £1050 tbc

A thorough bench and bin audit is needed all over the Park. Our group agreed to cover this in our regular area checks. The condition of existing benches (plus name plaques) and suggestions for extra bench and bin locations is to be recorded on the area maps which were distributed.

To survey the many benches around the Hall and Café area will be a project for the National Citizens Service young people on August 20th.

There have been problems with fly tipping at Barwise recently Hopefully now sorted.

The balsam at Barwise is being cleared and the area can now be grassed for easy mowing.

.FOTP funded an item of equipment so that there was no need for an outside contractor. This can now be useful for other jobs around the Parks

Tree pruning and removing the unsightly railings by the Barwise entrance will be undertaken whilst the County Council are working on the roads in that area.

Trees for Burnley have a scheduled balsam bash for Sunday August 11th. (tel June 439034)

Knotweed is still a big problem. Please report to Sean/ Damian any growth. Especially near water courses. The Environment agency is responsible for eradication.

The Changing Places unit at Riverside for disabled visitors is scheduled to be installed soon.

On August 13th the Ribble Rivers Trust will have an information gazebo at the Riverside Play Area.

The drinking water fountain (funded by FOTP) at Riverside Car Park. - Sean is meeting with the plumber and it should be installed soon.

The fountain near the Hall also funded by us should be flowing in 2020!!

Towneley along with all the other parks in Burnley and Padiham have been awarded the Green Flag again after favourable inspections by an independent team.

Sean thanked the Group for their hard work in helping the Council to maintain such a high standard in the Park.

7. Feedback from events: The Ribble Rivers Trust "Trout in the Classroom" project was so popular that we have agreed to fund it again next Spring with St Stephen's Primary School. Worsthorne and Springfield schools will also take part and find funding themselves.

The Easter Trail – not as well supported as last year due to many other things going on in the Park, and the very hot weather, but we still made £240, with no expenses.

Plant Sale again popular and over £300 raised to put back into further projects.

Brass Band Concert :- our catering was curtailed this year due to forecasts of rain, but it went ahead with the rain holding off for the afternoon and we made £260.

8. Future Activities:

The Thursday volunteer gardening is well attended we have 5 new recruits joined (Neil, Luke, Matthew, Jo and Barbara).

Pat and Pete set out the summer trail in Thanet Lea (Ribbons and Bows) Question sheets £1 available in the Hall Reception. Unfortunately already there has been some vandalism which P&P have repaired –please report any problems you see or hear of.

Bird feeding equipment has been cleaned. Now stored in the shed until late Autumn.

Craft Fair (Sunday Nov 24th) We will do the refreshment room 12.30 – 4.00pm. Pat A. to organise. To reduce plastic usage, we have purchased 100 ceramic mugs to use at our events These can be stored in the Hall kitchen.

Monday Craft Group starts again on September 9th (1-3pm) The afternoon to include Crafts, with anyone interested learning to play a ukulele with Maureen! Everyone welcome.

It was agreed to assess the footpaths for suitability for manual wheel chair users. Some will be too steep and some may need maintenance. David Marsden volunteered to do this. There is already a map of mobility scooter routes.

9. Treasurers Report: We have now re- paid the £72,400 we had been holding for the Council, to the Council, for the Changing Places at Riverside. We have had an income of £1,043 from April to June leaving us with money which we should spend in the Park, wisely and quite quickly.

10. Trustees recommended future plans:

The Barwise area continues to be developed. The central area is now cleared of balsam etc and will be grassed over.

We have estimates for some new play items (a small wigwam and a raised play hut) subject to approval from Simon and Carly.

Andrew and Maureen are working on a “home made” willow wigwam as well.

It was agreed to fund the cost of a defibrillator at the Rotunda. The Council will have the responsibility for purchase, installation and maintenance.

The Treasure’s role has now been documented, and **we need a new Treasurer** to take over from Richard after the AGM.

We also need to find an alternative accountant so that our current year’s accounts can be independently examined. Gill is researching this, but suggestions welcomed.

Our finances are in good shape, but we need to hold in reserve a £5000 contingency fund.

Current outgoings will be as follows: £600 (trout project) £1500 Defibrillator cost. Towneley News £200 (if we can’t get sponsorship), Play equipment at Barwise £5300

Costs for the water fountain (approx. £1500), training budget, rental for portaloo and replacing our banner, all to be confirmed.

We are hoping to join with the THS and Council to finance a project to have flood lighting for the front of the Hall for special occasions. Negotiations with a local specialist lighting company (ac/dc at Barrowford) are ongoing.

Maureen and Gill are investigating a possible change from Charity Checkout to a less expensive funding agent. The CAF bank, that we already use, can offer a very similar range of services for better value.

Pat Ashton would like to step down from her role as Towneley News editor. She has done an excellent job ever since the first edition. **Anyone willing to become Editor** please let Maureen know. This has been a joint task, and could happily be done by one or two people.

The various History Plaques around the Park need cleaning. The support stands are rusting. All the signage, including a new ice house sign, will be newly printed.

11. AOB The glass panel the Craft Group produced is now on display in the Wild about Burnley Room in the Hall. The back lighting needs some adjustment to get the full effect.

A group photograph was taken with the QAV trophy.

A photograph was also taken at Riverside by Lancashire Environment Fund, who had helped to fund the new playground. Gill had arranged this, and the photo will be used in the LEF brochure

Members agreed to arrange a lunch after the AGM at 1.00pm in the Stables Café.

**Next Meeting is the AGM
On October 19th in the Hall Lecture Theatre
At 11.00am**

