

Friends of Towneley Park (Reg. Charity No. 1144988)

1. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday January 23rd 2013

1. **Present:** Pat Colbran, Ronnie Pollard, Maureen Frankland, Susan Barker, Andy Buck, Victoria Dewhurst, John Nuttall, June Evans, Keith Buchanan, Keith Wilson
2. **Apologies:** June Pritchard, Louise Chesbrough, Sylvia Hagan, Roger Atkinson, Tony Kitto, Margaret Crane, Pat & Pete Ashton, Jill Urquhart.
3. **Meeting – November 22nd 2012:** Minutes passed as a true record.

Matters arising:

The Sunday morning problem with large groups of Husky type dogs was discussed. In general they are well behaved in most of the Park, but on the walk up from Riverside to the Hall, little consideration is given to other pedestrians and small children who could be intimidated. Also dog fouling isn't attended to, leaving an "obstacle course" for visitors to negotiate. The Rangers will be asked to monitor this and take appropriate action.

4. Financial Report: November 22nd 2012 – January 22nd 2013

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Gloves-bulb planting	6.25	Sale of DVD's	4.00
*Gift bags	6.00	Christmas Donations	116.63
Envelopes	0.85	Rotary Club – Garden	129.50
Folders	1.60	H.L.F. Grant (1 st year)	6400.00
AGM – Refreshments	5.00		
Plants/ Rotary Club garden	65.00		
Canes for Jubilee Trees	27.00		
*Paint for swan / doves	5.00		
*Materials for Santa photos	13.98		
*CD – Lone Piper	8.48		
*Christmas Presents	55.44		
*Santa – new wig & beard	13.99	Balance B/ Fwd	4409.08
Total :	208.59		11,059.21
Expenses outstanding:			
Rotary Club Garden balance	64.50		
Co-op – Scooter mtnce	1024.20		
Lottery Grant – 1st Year	6400.00		
	= 7488.70		
* = Christmas event		Balance =	3570.51

We agreed to fund the June Brass Band expenses (£150) and also £200 towards the "Barwise Dahlia" costs.

Andy will get a quote for wild flower seeds and possible funding sources.

We would like to provide 1 or 2 benches at Woodgrove (Andy to get competitive quotes)

5. Reports from BBC Officers (Points raised and updates):

- A lot of damage to tree bark along the Holmes Road had been noticed. Andy said that this was due to pit bull type dogs being trained to attack!
- A dead roe deer had also been found near Applecross. Anyone with evidence or concerns, especially at night time should ring the Police
- The "Barwise" dahlias will be potted up at the Queens park depot. The Gardening Club may be able to help with the block planting in the Italian Garden in June. BBC will not be able to overwinter the dahlias, but FOTP and THS members should be able to undertake this. Although the dahlias won't be in flower in time for the Antique Road Show visit on June 27th – 30th it was agreed that they will still add to the overall effect in the Italian Garden.

6. Management and Maintenance:

- Green Flag and Green Heritage application is ready to submit.
- Maureen distributed the updated M & M plan of action for 2013
- A post and rail fence is under construction at Broad Ing and Riverside.
- Provision of cycle racks at Riverside: - a meeting to be arranged soon as funding may now be available from LCC.
- The Council is planning a Community Bonfire this year, and a possible site is the field past the changing pavilion, with a fair on that car park. All would be fenced off and well regulated.
- The Classic Car Show on June 30th is hoping to have a steam traction engine as an added attraction
- The fountain in the Hall pond: some members would like to have a more ornate outlet for the water. Anything fancy would be very expensive to fit, and other members think the plain spout is fine.

7. Feedback from:

- **Jubilee Tree Planting:** Went well with volunteers from ourselves, Pennine Lancashire Community Farm, Eco Minds systems and Keith's regular team. The trees all seem to be doing well, and we agreed to keep an eye on the area.
- **The Santa event** with the 12 days of Christmas theme was very popular. Pat will send out thank-you notes to people who had helped with loan of items/livestock! Sylvia sent in a note to suggest a more realistic donation request (maybe £2/ £2.50 per child) in view of the work and effort that goes into the event and the fact that we need to make money to use for Park improvements.. June E said there was no need to offer photos, as most parents have their own cameras. All these things will be discussed when planning gets underway for next Christmas.

8. Projects:

- **Newsletter:** nearly ready for Graphics to do the layout and printing. Funding has been secured through a Ward Opportunities Grant from Cllr David Heginbotham. Pat to explore funding for the next 2 issues (August 2013 and March 2014).
- **Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday March 31st.** Pat Ashton will be asked to arrange a date to plan the event.
- **May Day – Monday May 6th.** Will plan at next meeting.
- **Heritage Lottery Project + Deer and Fountain installation:**
Steve and his team to prepare ground for Hardy's to start work on the Fountain in February.
Saturday 13th April, 1.30 pm - 4.30pm - Open History Workshop Event, everyone welcome.
Contact Susan on 01282 423016 for details.
For the History project it was suggested that a record of all the memorial benches over the years could be included. This should be available at the Cemetery Office
Saturday 18th May Adult Wicker Workshops with EcoArts:-10.00am- 12.30 and 1.30- 4.00.
Booking only. Ring Maureen to book a place.
Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd, Thursday 23rd May: Wicker Workshops in primary Schools.
- **Bird Feeding Rota:** A volunteer request list for the next few weeks was passed round. Maureen will complete and circulate. Everyone was thanked for their work in keeping the birds fed over the winter.
- **The Classic Car Show:** We will decide at the March meeting whether to have a stall or activity – one suggestion of making bird boxes was put forward. Additional ideas welcome.

9. Activities:

- **Gardening Club:** Will start again in March. A suggestion was made to meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month (rather than Thursday) Will decide when Pete returns from holiday. Work will continue on the Stables bed and the Rotary Club Garden.
- **Recruitment / publicity:** Susan to cover press releases and publicity on "Point Me". June Evans to keep the Notice board tidy. Pat, Richard, Susan and Roger A. to update the website.
We need a volunteer to organise Facebook and Twitter possibilities.
- **Scooters:** Maureen has organised a training session for Christine and Sarah (Hall staff) on the procedures for issuing the Scooters. Our volunteers will try to cover Sundays and Bank Holidays as last year.
The scooters need to be used regularly during the Winter months to keep the batteries charged. This can be done by volunteers doing the bird feeding rota or on any other occasion.

- **Litter Picking:** Sylvia will contact volunteers to fix suitable times and dates.
- **Visits:** A suggestion was made that we arrange visits to the bowling and golf clubs in the Park. It would be good to have a tuition session in the arts of bowling at the Towneley club!

10 AOB:

- The insurance for the Group is still not resolved. Council insurance will only cover members working under Park supervision. Susan agreed to contact CVS to investigate a suitable policy so that cost to BBC is kept to a minimum.
- Maureen now has the 2013 parking passes ready to distribute. These specify the Hall car park, but can be used at all the others as well. The Towneley Bowling Club still has problems with available spaces for elderly visitors especially on Tuesday match days, as the Hall car park is often full. Also, having to pay car park charges is affecting the Club membership recruitment as other parks have free accessible parking.
- We had a visit from Victoria Dewhurst from the Ribble Rivers Trust to bring us up to date with local progress.
Work on the wetland area at Fulfilledge can now move on, as the source of the water causing the main problem has now been identified. The Environment Agency has provided extra funding to dig out the deep well and divert the discoloured water to a new reed bed before it goes into a swale. Then at last the paths can be completed and flowers planted to brighten that part of Fulfilledge. If a footbridge can be constructed as well, this would make a pleasant circular walk to enjoy
Results of a grant application to HLF should be announced in April. Work can then begin to deepen the bed of the Calder where it flows through the town to make deeper pools. After that work can be started on the Brun. Hopefully wild flowers etc can enhance the areas.
A contact person from our Group is needed to liaise with Victoria on our balsam pulling sessions when we could team up with her volunteers.

Next Meeting Date is on: Monday 25th March 2013 at 10.00 am

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