

FRIENDS OF TOWNELEY PARK

Minutes

Meeting held July 14th 2016

Present: Roger Leach, Pat Colbran, Pat Ashton, Pete Ashton, Keith Buchanan, Ian Walton, Susan Barker, Maureen Frankland, Shirley Roberts, Grayson Holden, June Pritchard, John Gilbert, Carly Glover(BBC)

Apologies: Margaret Crane, Richard Moss, Ronnie Pollard, Anne Mason. Andy Buck (BBC)

Welcome: Maureen opened the meeting. Members were asked to check that date on their parking passes current. Some passes are now issued without needing a renewal date.

Two new members were introduced: Shirley Roberts and John Gilbert.

A task sheet to sign up for "jobs to do" was circulated.

Members were encouraged to claim for any expenses incurred.

Minutes/Matters Arising : There were no matters arising, and the January Minutes were passed as a true record.

Officers Report: Andy could not attend, but sent a report that the potential trip hazard on the Fulledege footpath had been cleared.

The annual fun fair location was switched from the usual Fulledege site to the Woodgrove car park due to the wet weather, no complaints from local residents.

Carly reported that work was completed at the Riverside play area including a brand new climbing net, water pump reinstalled, the "spring" toy and roundabout replaced. A fresh layer of woodchip was put down (made from our own tree fellings, so very low cost!)

We discussed how best to place the new square litter bins funded by us should be located. 2 to go outside Hall side by side, and the old round ones to go by the Deerpond bench and the playing fields

Treasurer's Report:

Income from our events so far this year:

January: Donation from Mrs Whipp- £53, Lisa Griffin (Plant) £40.

Easter day Egg Hunt: £263 20 (includes a £5 donation for bird food from a passer by!)

June: Scooter donation £22. Donation for unwanted chairs £10. Another bird food donation £5!

Sale of plants from the Italian garden - £314 37.

Brass band 305.96.

Richard M. sent in a late report:

The bank balance @ 1st September 2015: £16842

Income :	<u>£17439</u>
	£34281

Payments:	<u>£17549</u>
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Balance @ 30 th June 2016:	£16732
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Maureen noted that the system to use Gift Aid for donations from the public was working well using "Charity Checkout" with a tax refund of £2825 so far this year. We pay a membership fee of £119 annually for the service.

Members area checks:

Higher Towneley: Pat and Pete. Lots of Himalayan Balsam! The area planted last year with borage was now overgrown with large docks.

The "Burnley Way" marker post by the footbridge leading to the bluebell wood is overgrown with weeds and hard to see.

Smallholdings: Pat C. Picked litter – not too bad except for some large pieces of insulation board!

The bases of the carved marker posts are overgrown with weeds. The carvings are in need of re finishing, but a dry spell is needed to do this.

A bit more litter by the Deerpond, and lots of balsam by the footpath at the end of the trail and by the entrance to the 9 hole golf course

Riverside: The oak posts by the Rotunda need replacing. Carly to get a price for us to buy .Steve to install. We could fund up to £100.

A friend of Ronnie was interested in starting a boules area at Woodgrove. Ronnie thinks a corner of Riverside would be more suitable, with loos and refreshments nearby. Passed on to Simon.

Fulledge:

The loose cobbles at the crossing by Unity College have been made secure.

Some broken fencing by the river (caused by a fallen tree) needs replacing. This should be funded by Lancashire CC, but they are disputing that they are responsible. Simon is trying to resolve this.

Barwise: Maureen and Andrew. Some old rotting picnic benches have been removed. –see “future plans”

Chairmans Update: Plaques have been put in place on the new memorial benches. One has to be re done as the lady gave the wrong date! One of the benches is to be relocated at the request of the donor. One backless bench can be put at the playing field side of the Hall carpark.

More enquiries for benches are coming in.

Plants removed from the Italian Garden in spring such as primulas could be put in temporary beds at Queens Park compound to over winter. This would be labour intensive for us, so needs discussing before next Spring.

The Towneley History leaflet need to be re printed. BBC Graphics have quoted £378 for 3000 copies.

Susan, Grayson and Maureen to check the details before going ahead.

The new Walks leaflet is out and available at the Hall.

A new leaflet holder has been installed at the Rotunda. (Made by Richard Colbran) This will take various sizes of publications.

The Bonfire going ahead on Saturday Nov. 5th, using the same arrangements and times as last year.

Publicity posters and leaflets given out for distribution.

Activity Feedback:

Meeting Room: Two local photographs donated by ??? have been framed and hung.

A kitchen cupboard donated by Pauline has been modified by Andrew and fitted under the worktop.

A clock and radio have been sourced by Pat A.

Keith volunteered to smarten up the outside notice board with blackboard paint.

The link matting at the entrance needs renewing. Carly knows a supplier, and will get prices.

The silk wall hangings (made by volunteers during the Heritage Lottery programme) have still not been located, but will be hung in the room when found.

Comments Box: A dozen comments picked up – mostly good (gardens, grounds and clean loos!)

Some disappointments at Offshoots and the craft Museum being closed. Also grumbles about the war memorial pond being dirty. A request for a tree climbing area!! and monkey bars. Also someone wanting more local art in the Hall.

Wicker Deer: Repaired after damage. John Gilbert offered to spread mulch under the deer to suppress the grass growth. Susan will provide some black membrane to put under the mulch.

Scooters: John Nuttall has cleaned and checked. Maureen has updated the paper work. Thanks to the Hall staff for dealing with the issuing.

Brass Band Concert: This had to be held indoors in the Red and Green rooms due to wet weather.

The music sounded really good in the high ceilinged rooms. The refreshment arrangements worked well although not as much sold as when outdoors.

Roger made a very good CD recording of the music. This is on sale for £5 at the Hall shop.

Future Plans:

Barwise picnic benches. 4 replacements (flat pack) have been ordered from “Zest 4 leisure” at Accrington for £150 each. A working party needed to assemble and install. Metal posts and postcrete needed. These will be placed in a more suitable location than those that were removed.

Gardening club: A lot of heavy pruning needed at the Rotary bed (?Steve in the autumn)

It was decided not to go ahead with putting plaques by the garden areas we look after. The money could be better used on plants etc.

Little Lime Walk: Work is going well. 4 more orders for memorial plants received. A strimmer has been ordered to deal with the remaining tall weeds. Hopefully more volunteers can be recruited to continue the project.

Scavenger Hunt: Pat and Pete have prepared the work sheets and posters to leave at the Hall.

A wet weather alternative trail in the Art Gallery as well as the usual outdoor one are available at the Hall shop. This will go on during all the Summer holidays from July 22nd Cost £1 per sheet.

Heritage and Woodland Day, September 11th: Posters handed out for distribution. Tea room in the Servants dining room as last year. (all cakes etc welcome) The over flow car parking arrangements at Riverside need better supervision from the Rangers on duty. The road gets very congested at the entrance.

Halloween: This is in half term week. If Ken is agreeable it would be better to put the trail around the Hall in case of poor weather. It would also avoid the vandalism which spoiled last year's event. Pat and Pete to organize. Trail sheets £1. Pat C. to put on website.

Christmas planning: A meeting was set up for Wednesday September 14th- 10am in the meeting room. All interested to bring ideas for a theme.

Outstanding Items:

Wetlands bridge – still no progress on the installation.

Himalayan Balsam: A Woodlands volunteer (Phil Dykes) is organizing a balsam bash on July 27th starting at 10am. Meet at the barrier to the compound.(end of the Hall car park)

Litter Bin notices: These have been placed on some of the very well used bins, but will be extended to say: "if full, please take your litter home"

Proposal to extend the Hall car park: To be used as an overflow for special events. This is at a very early stage, and could be sited opposite the turning circle using part of the field. Simon has suggested using part of the Triangle, but we felt cars there would be too intrusive. A major project, and the Towneley Hall Society have offered to cover some of the costs from their funds.

Meal after the AGM: It was decided to book the Stables Café as last year.

AOB.

All members to think about suitable articles for the next issue of "Towneley News."

Roger now has a "spy camera" which he is hoping to use for aerial views over the Italian Garden and Hall.

Next Meeting; the AGM on Saturday October 22nd at 11.00am in the Towneley Hall Lecture Theatre.

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