

FRIENDS OF TOWNELEY PARK

Minutes

Meeting held January 26th 2017, Friends Meeting Room.

Present: Roger Leach, Pat Colbran, Pat Ashton, Pete Ashton, Ian Walton, David Marsden, Mary McNeille, Gillian Atkinson, Barbara Nutter, Ronnie Pollard, Janet Smith, Richard Moss, Margaret Crane, Andy Buck, Maureen Frankland, Shirley Roberts, Grayson Holden, Gill Robinson, Diane Flynn.

Apologies: Keith Buchanan, Anne Mason, Anne Starkie, Ann Salisbury, Phil Dykes, Denise Morley, Carly Glover, Ken Darwen, Cllr. B. Foster. (June Pritchard after the meeting.)

Welcome: Maureen opened the meeting, and welcomed new members Janet Smith and Gillian Atkinson.

A task sheet to sign up for “jobs to do”, and a “dates for your diary” was circulated, along with contact details lists. A meeting in Nelson on March 2nd 1 – 3pm for the Clinical Commissioning Group who provided the funding for the Mosaic Workshops. Maureen will attend plus any one else interested. Barbara has volunteered.

On March 8th 6.30pm 2 representatives of our Group are invited to County Hall in Preston to a “get together” of Friends of Parks and Gardens in Lancashire. Let Maureen know if you can attend.

Minutes/Matters Arising : (July 2016 Meeting) Passed as a true record

- a) 5 new rubbish bins installed. The request to put some side by side in very busy areas was turned down by Simon! A type of plastic bin may be used for further sites, as there is now a low risk of them being set alight.
- b) It was decided that the idea to put woodchip under the wicker deer in the Italian Garden was unsuitable, and letting the grass grow would be more natural looking. (Barbara will keep it tidy when she trims the willow growth)
- c) The proposal to overwinter the primulas from the Italian garden at Queens Park depot was voted down.
- d) No progress on new matting for the meeting room entrance – Andy will make enquiries re golf matting.
- e) Still no progress on the wetland bridge!

Officers Report: (Andy Buck)

- a) Steve and Callum have cleared the remaining area of the Small Lime Walk. All the cuttings will be chipped and removed. Rob and another worker have been working at Hargher Clough, but installed 4 of the new memorial benches. The placing of the remaining bench is still to be decided. Thanks for this work.
- b) The contracted work for cleaning the toilets at the Rotunda has not been up to standard. Although there were no problems at the Hall, it was hoped to find a replacement service.
- c) The events list for 2017 was almost ready, and will be sent out. Our dates for Easter Sunday (April 16th), and the Band Concert (June 11th) with Stacksteads Band are fixed. We agreed to contribute £250 towards the event.
- d) Some of the oak posts by the Rotunda are in a poor state. David will check them to see if they need replacing and research sizes and prices through Lanlee at Colne or the yard at Shuttleworth (Padiham). We will try to fund the cost. New posts have replaced some rotting ones on the road sides.
- e) The Green Flag award for 2017 has been applied for.
- f) The Management Plan needs updating in 2018. Volunteers will be needed to help with this.
- g) The new Walking leaflets are now available as are the revised Changing Landscape leaflets.
- h) The Golf Courses are now run by Burnley Leisure Trust. The same green keepers will continue to do the maintenance work.
- i) New car park charges from April will be £1.50 all day at the Rotunda, Woodgrove and Barwise. The Hall car park is still 80p per hour. An annual pass for Hall is £60 and for the Riverside, Woodgrove and Barwise is £39.
- j) A proposed overflow car park extension at the far end of the Hall car park is being considered by BBC. This is a big project and will be funded by the Towneley Hall Society and BBC equally. The area will be “grasscreted” to allow a natural effect and will only be used at special events.
- k) A new electric bollard is to be put by the Café to prevent public access to the area in front of the shop. This works by a telephone number.

l) Gillian Atkinson reported that the path from Morse St is in a bad way and needs proper chippings rather than wood chip. Ideally a good foundation would be great-(FOTP to consider for the future).

Ken Darwen did not attend, but had discussed, with Maureen, an alternative Christmas activity , which would be held over 2 days. However, they decided that what we do now works well.

Treasurer's Report: (Richard Moss 1st September 2016 – 9th January 2017).

Income from events £1338 and Gift Aid £2585 = £3923

Expenditure: Benches: Heritage and Woodland: AGM: Bank charges etc. £6405

Bank Account: Balance at 9th January 2017 £15,775

Items ring fenced from balance:

Scooter Replacement fund £2,000: Barwise Play Area: £10,000: Further benches £500: Heritage and Woodland Festival: £1,000: Oak posts: Litter bins: Defibrillator Total - More than £13,500, potentially £15,000

Members area checks:

Smallholdings: Pat C. Picked litter – not too bad – 2 bags filled. Margaret noticed that some path areas needed filling in with more chippings. The bases of the carved marker posts need tidying up. The carvings will be renovated by Richard Colbran and Andrew Johnson as the weather improves.

Riverside: Ronnie reported that 2 more trees were partly blocking bridge and need removing to avoid future flood problems. Maureen to ask Andy to follow up or follow up with Ribble Rivers Trust.

Causeway to Pitch and Putt (Keith reported after the meeting). No problems. The area looked good.

Feedback re Barwise project and defibrillator

Gill Robinson reported that the £10,000 Awards for All grant had been approved, and the money should soon be in our account. Contractors Playdale are ready to submit plans so that, hopefully, the first phase of the new play area will be ready by Easter. Many thanks to Gill for her work on this project.

Thanks also to Gill for researching the possibility of installing a public access defibrillator at the Rotunda. There was no funding available from the British Heart Foundation (they did not consider it to be a priority site!) so we will have to raise our own funds! A suggestion was made to approach the 5K runners and the football league to see if they could help. The device costs £900 and would need to be in a special heated cabinet- cost £500. There would be no access after dark when the Rotunda is locked, but available all day. A notice to indicate that the area is covered by CCTV would be a good idea. If installed it would need a weekly visual check. This could be done as part of the bird feeding rota. We would need to consult with the Ambulance service for advice before installation.

Activity Feedback:

Santa comes to Towneley: Was again held indoors, and was enjoyed by all the families. The trail worked well, but some stations caused a bit of a hold up. Santa needs to leave about 3.30. so we have to keep a good flow of children. A very nice DVD of the event made by Roger Leach can be borrowed from the meeting room. The theme for next Christmas will be decided later, possibly 12 Days of Christmas or a more interactive idea.

Band Concert: Due to rain, it was held indoors, but was still a very popular event. Tea room much appreciated! A DVD made by Roger Leach is available to borrow from the Meeting room.

Heritage & Woodland Festival. The overflow car parking arrangements were stymied by the wet conditions in the field. More planning needed to have alternative sites available, an better communication with the rangers. The whole event was a great success, and the tea room sold out!

Halloween Trail. This half term event over 2 weeks was set out in the Hall and proved very popular. A different trail layout in the hall will be planned for next year.

Bonfire was again very popular. 5 members helped in the staff refreshment room (provided by the Worsthorne Tea Rooms), lost children and ticket checks. Next year, ALL advertising should stress that tickets have to be bought before the day as some people tried to buy on the night.

Bird Feeding: The sheet for the next few weeks was circulated. Pat and Pete have left extra seed in the meeting room to collect. The feeders are now in an easier position to get down.

Litter Members were asked to do a “pick” when on a walk. Pickers and bags are available in the Hall foyer. Denise and Janet already do a great job. Maureen has some new “litter labels” to put on the litter bins to encourage the public to use them or take their litter home. Janet will add these to litter bins where appropriate.

History Leaflet: The updated leaflet (The Changing Landscape) is now available. Thanks to Grayson, Susan and Maureen for working on this. A blog is also on our web site with lots of information.

Picnic Bench installation: 2 more benches are now in place. 4 volunteers installed them on a sunny December day.

Comments Box: One comment picked up from a family who picnic regularly in the Park year round, and thought an indoor picnic place for bad weather was a possibility. Pat will follow up and consult with Andy/Simon. There are already shelters in the park (Causeway road, Boggart Bridge and at the triangle.)

Future Planning:

Park Promotion: The Spring/Summer “Towneley News” edition is underway. Should be out in March.

Web Site: Members felt that the address was very awkward to use. As it is a free site through BT it will be left for now, as it can also be accessed through the Burnley.gov. web site and the Towneley Hall website.

Maureen reported that Facebook is going well. (We have 380 facebook friends!!)

Gardening Club: Starts again on Thursday March 2nd 10am –Noon, then first Thursday monthly till October. It was decided to buy 2 spades, 2 forks (D handles, stainless steel) and 2 plastic trugs. Pat C to buy.

Steve’s team has cut back the old viburnum etc and put some extra turf edging down at the Rotary bed.

Thanks for that – this will make it much easier for us to manage. It was decided that we would not do any more daffodil bulb planting with school children, but may do some balsam picking in the summer.

Ronnie would like to have more bluebells. The ones planted about five years ago are only just starting to thrive.

Small Lime Walk: Work starts again on Thursday March 16th, then every third Thursday (10am – Noon). All the planting is doing well, and is a great improvement. Steve and Callum have cleared all the overgrown area at the far end of the site, and will chip and clear it.

Easter and May Day: We will have the regular Easter Day trail as usual on Sunday April 16th, but no stall as well. The Towneley Hall Society usually have a Sunday sales table. It was decided not to have a stall on May Day.

Memorial Benches: The old benches around the Hall need cleaning up or replacing. A working party needed for February 9th at 1.00pm to start the work. Five benches need replacing. Janet will try to trace the families with memorial plaques to transfer to a new bench, and possibly share with another family wanting a memorial bench.

Craft Group: Mosaic workshop – February 3rd, then every other Friday (1pm -3pm). The 2 mosaics should then be completed. All three mosaics will then be placed in the Hall.

Pauline’s group: Meet monthly on the last Wednesday. All welcome.

Himalayan Balsam: Phil Dykes to organize working parties in June/July. Details at our next meeting

Room Cleaning: Rota working well. A new clock battery has been fitted.

AOB.

There is to be an Armed Forces Day at Towneley sometime in July. Ronnie had been asked if our group would like to have a stall. He will get more details for the next meeting.

Finally, Roger Leach was thanked for his DVD recordings of our activities during the year. They are available to borrow from the meeting room.

Richard Moss was also thanked for keeping the meeting supplied with drinks, and washing up as well, not to mention his skills as Treasurer!

The Meeting closed at 12.20pm. Next Meeting – Monday April 3rd at 10.00am in the Meeting room

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