



Minutes AGM Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds 27/05/2015

PRESENT.

Committee Members: Elaine Robinson (Chair).
Clare Birch (Secretary), David Bigby (Treasurer), Annie Ingram, Phil Jones,
Chris Smith, Yvonne Smith and Geoff Bibby

Also present;

21 Members of Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds

APOLOGIES.

Lorna Titley, Eric Donald

APPROVAL of the Minutes of 2014 AGM

Approved

MINUTES.

3. Officers Reports

A. Chair

Thanked everyone for coming and briefly outlined some of the events and activities that the Friends had been involved in over the last 12 months including;

- Withdrawal of application to build houses on the Bath grounds by Oakland hotels on 4th August 2014, the approval of Royal Hotel application and commercial building application in November 2014
- Continued talks with S. Dawson to maintain communications with Oakland Hotels
- Recent Plant Sale on the Bath Grounds on 23rd May 2015, that raised £1080 – half of which will be donated to Hospice Hope
- Ashby's Big Tidy Up – in March 2015, where the Friends picked 29 sacks of litter around the Bath Grounds and Castle Field
- The adoption of the flowerbed on the Bath Grounds
- Changes to the Constitution to enable progress with the Footpath project funding applications
- David Simpkins has stepped down as Chair in November 2014, Elaine Robinson had taken over as Chair
- Adoption of Committee Standing Orders to clarify process of Committee decision making
- Joining of 2 new committee members Lorna Titley and Geoff Bibby
- Successful collaborations with the Cricket Club and Matt Longley's attendance as observer at 2015 committee meetings
- The launch of the 2015 campaign – 'Pride in our Bath Grounds'
- The work carried out over the last 4 months to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund to match funding from the NWLDC 20K Award in December 2014, to build the Footpath around the north perimeter of the Bath Grounds



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The Chair also described how, since the withdrawal of the house build application, the role of the Friends was currently more as a Facilitator Group rather than a Protest Group and that was really how we saw ourselves going forward.

B. Secretary (Clare Birch)

Recent events that the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds had been involved with were described which included;

2014

- Presence at Gusto Fair
- Tokens collected for Leicester Mercury 'Cash for the Community' raised £108 to be used for the Footpath Project
- Fundraising quizzes
- Community Asset Status for the Bath Grounds achieved
- Presence at Jim's Tractor Run - launching Footpath Project
- Footpath Project Consultations and approval by the Town council
- Footpath Project presentation to the Heritage Lottery Fund
- Success with application for 20k for 7 scheme organised by the NWLDC, with an award of £20K for the Footpath Project (to be match funded)

2015

- Promotion of a petition to apply for right of way across Castle Field
- Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds Library display during February
- Participation in the Ashby Big Tidy Up
- Organisation of a Plant Sale on the Bath Grounds to raise monies for Hospice Hope

C. Treasurer (David Bigby)

Expenditure and balance (April – March)

There was an update by the Treasurer – financial year accounts

Total monies in end 2013/14 - £112.50,

Net income 2014/15 - £411.47

Balance at end of 2014/ 2015 - £523.97

Following monies contributed from the recent plant sale and new memberships - balance to date is £969.19

Accounts have been fully audited.

Membership (calendar year)

2014 – 62 members

2015 to date - 54 members prior to AGM meeting, with 10 new members joining at meeting giving total of 64



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4. Project Reports

A. Planting (Clare Birch)

The Friends are continuing with maintenance and planting of the Flowerbed on the Bath grounds and working with the TC to improve strimming of grass around the bed.

The Installation of a Friends of the Bath Ground Plaque into the flower bed will be carried out in the next few weeks.

Plant Sale – Saturday 23rd May 2015

The Plant Sale was very successful with over 700 plants being sold giving a grand total of £1080.

Many thanks to all members and community groups in Ashby who donated plants and members and friends who helped out on the day. Half of the proceeds are to be donated to Hospice Hope.

B. Footpath project (David Bigby)

A summary of work carried out on the Footpath Project over the last 6 months was presented. The Project is to install an all-weather, self-compacting Breedon Golden Amber gravel path around the north perimeter of the Bath Grounds.

Many consultations were carried out on the need for a footpath on the Bath Grounds, which resulted in over-whelming support by both the public and the Town Council. The Project Proposal with specifications was approved by the Town Council and a successful application made to the NWLDC resulting in an award of 20K in December 2014.

The monies from the NWLDC needed to be match funded and following a successful presentation to the Heritage Lottery Fund in January 2015, we were invited to put in a full application to the Heritage lottery Fund.

In order to have a chance of receiving the funding from the HLF, the footpath Project required much more Heritage and Community Engagement aspects and as such gives a much longer time scale for completion – although it has been planned if the application is successful that the Footpath itself would be installed towards the end of 2015.

Over the last 6 months the Friends having being putting together all the heritage and community aspects of the application which is now complete. We now only await the approval of a Partnership Agreement by the Town Council and their solicitors as they are to be the official partner of the project. This is hoped to be achieved this month but could be delayed until the end of June. The HLF proposal budget is approximately - £64,000.



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The Ashby Museum and many other local groups are involved in the Footpath project. The activities planned are as follows;

Project Administration, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (FOABG Committee & Monitoring Committee).

Project Website and Social Media (FOABG)

Improved Accessibility Path around Bath Grounds (+ ATC).

Bath Grounds Heritage Trail (+ ATC).

Community Archaeology (+ Museum & professional group).

History of the Spa and Bath Grounds Heritage Film (Wendy Freer - Pudding Bag Productions)

Ballad of the Bath Grounds (Alan Hutchinson & Go Ukulele Crazy).

Community mosaics (+ professional artist and illustrator)

New Edition of "Ashby – The Spa Town" book (Ken Hillier)

Ashby Spa and Bath Grounds Education Boxes (Museum)

Ashby Spa and Bath Grounds Lecture Programme (Ken Hillier & Museum)

Spa and Bath Grounds stall and exhibition at key local events (+ Museum)

Bath Grounds Heritage Trail walking tours (Ken Hillier & Museum)

Heritage Trail guide (to include mosaics) (+ Museum)

Supporting organisations include;

Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds, Ashby Town Council, Ashby Museum (including Ken Hillier), Pudding Bag Productions (including Wendy Freer), Alan Hutchinson, Go Ukulele Crazy, Ashby History Society, Ashby Civic Society, Ashby Community Cinema, Ashby Arts Festival, Peter Liddle (former Leicestershire Keeper of Archaeology), Ashby Bowling Club, Ashby Hastings Cricket Club, Ashby St Helens Church, North West Leicestershire District Council

C. Pride in our Bath Grounds campaign (Annie Ingram)

The Friends have formed a new working party for a new 2015 Campaign called ' **Pride In Our Bath Grounds** '

The Friends vision is to ensure that the highest standards of health, safety and enjoyment are achieved on the Bath Grounds. it was explained that we want to maintain the relaxed countryside in the town feel and make sure that our approach is to thank the majority of people who show respect for it and encourage everyone to do the same.

We was explained that we have 3 initial areas of focus;

1. Litter - bin it, take it home
2. Dog mess - bag it, bin it
3. Unwanted behaviour - not welcome here



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Overall it was explained that we want to encourage people to leave the Bath Grounds as they found them...respect them for all to enjoy. We will be working with the following people and groups;

Ruth Mulvany - Street Action Team, District Council, **Matt Longley** - Chairman of The Cricket Club, **Mark Arjoo** - Leicestershire Police, **Jack Fargher** - Clerk, Town Council, The general public, Local commercial businesses i.e. take out restaurants and supermarkets, Ashby Bowls Club

This summer we will be continuing to develop this campaign, which is still in its infancy, involving a newly formed sub group lead by Annie Ingram who explained a number of things to look out for over the summer;

- Our involvement at Jim's Tractor Run and Family Fun Day (Sunday July 26)
- Temporary Stencilling to paths and walkways asking people to pick up and bin dog waste and cigarette butts
- Possibility of trialling the use of small flags stuck into the grounds, asking people to bag and bin their dog waste
- Collaborating with the Town Council, Police and Friends presence on 'high risk' litter days
- Continued encouragement to ring 101 or contact Mark Arjoo regarding any unwanted behaviour on the Bath Grounds – this can be done anonymously if preferred – but will help to up the focus the police on the Bath Grounds if 'incidences' get logged officially at the police station

Any ideas on developing this campaign were welcomed during the meeting

5. Election of Officers

Elaine Robinson was nominated for Chair, seconded by Yvonne Smith and accepted
Clare Birch was nominated for Secretary, seconded by David Bigby and accepted
Dave Bigby was nominated for Treasurer, seconded by Annie Ingram and accepted.

6. Election of committee members

The following people volunteered and were accepted as committee members as follows;
Annie Ingram, Phil Robinson, Chris Smith, Yvonne Smith, Lorna Titley (agreed prior to meeting), Geoff Bibby and Jeremy Birch. This gives a full committee of 10 committee members

AOB

None raised