



Minutes AGM Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds

21/05/2018

PRESENT

Committee Members: Jeremy Birch (Chairman)
Vince Mott (Secretary), Geoff Bibby (Treasurer), Annie Ingram, Clare Birch, Brian Everitt

Also present:

F. Bedford, M. Bennett, J. Bibby, D. Bigby, L. Mott, J. Donald, E. Elston, A. Honer, C. Shaw, J. Shaw, C. Maskrey, H. Sutherland, E. Lawrence, S. Kershaw

1. APOLOGIES

D. Benson (Committee), D. Bedford, R. Everitt

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES 2017 AGM

Approved.

3. OFFICERS REPORTS

a. Chairman (Jeremy Birch)

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and for the continued support. He briefly outlined some of the events and activities that the Friends had been involved in over the last 12 months
The Wildlife Walk has had positive feedback and volunteers have contributed to the work. We had sponsors kindly donate benches, Ashfields and the Civic Society that were made by Artisan.
Those attending were also asked to complete the GDPR forms and return.

The Friends are invited to maintenance meetings at the Town Council and these are working well.
We have volunteer weekend, every 6-7 weeks to maintain flower beds, footpaths and interpretation boards.

Pride, covers ASB, litter and dog behaviour.

b. Secretary (Vince Mott)

Informed everyone that we had held 8 committee meetings, with an average of 5 committee members attending. We also held a General Meeting in April where 5 members attended.

c. Treasurer (Geoff Bibby)

Friends account

Expenditure and balance (April – March)

There was an update by the Treasurer – financial year accounts April 1st 2017 – March 31st 2018

Total income 2016/17 - £5,252.63 (£605 from membership and £4.00 sales)

Balance at end of 2017/2018 - £1,595.35

The spending had been on equipment, cost of being at events, insurance, planting and stationary.



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21/05/2018

4. Project reports

Maintenance (Brian Everitt)

We hold quarterly meetings with the Town Clerk, which Annie Ingram also attends. The FOABG produce an agenda and minutes. The Town Council (TC) don't want to always act as quickly as we would like. Rubbish from our work a couple of weeks ago has still to be collected.

Fencing of the knotweed areas is still poor. We have taken this up with the TC and the company without any progress.

The Parks and Cemeteries Committee are now kept up to date with a report produced by the FOABG and submitted to their quarterly meetings.

We are still concerned about drivers exceeding the 5mph speed limit. Signs have been put up and a letter written to the Bowls Club regards speeding which is both dangerous and damages the Heritage footpath.

Pride (Annie Ingram)

Litter, dog waste and ASB. Focused on bins and benches. Converted dog bins to full size bins x 8. Bigger stickers on the bins to show that they can be used for dog waste. 1 March Ashby Litter Pick. Plenty of bags collected despite the weather. Less rubbish this year, which is an improvement. Voluntary days also include litter.

ASB last year included vehicles on Bath Grounds (BG), meetings were set up with District and Town Councils. Now have a quarterly meeting, including the Royal Hotel. Stone boulders installed and CCTV on Royal Hotel car park. A barrier is being sought for the car park. ASB has been reduced but if you see anything call 101 and make a note of any registrations.

Less dog waste at the moment. The flagging seems to be working.

Royal Hotel (Annie Ingram)

QA contractor has been kept on for the car park. Application still exists for shop units and apartments, although amended to be more apartments. Building at risk register with English Heritage. Another planning application do up the Royal, sheltered housing on the gardens and building on Bath Grounds. Oaklands Hotel Limited are the owners. Dutch backers! Experience on our side, BG used more than ever.

Wildlife Walk (Clare Birch)

Was progressing well all prepped ready to go and then TC mowed it all down. Started from scratch. Re-prepare with help from the TC, including seeds. Problem this year is lack of water. Seven bird boxes and bat boxes, specific box for robins. Grey tits are nesting already. Robust boxes, eco friendly and should last 25 years. TC and Friends have planted bulbs. Officially open the walk in September with a plaque unveiling. Free events around Leicestershire, first three weeks in Sep is being held on the BG

Membership (Clare Birch)

Membership

2014 – 62 members

2015 – 79 members

2016 – 136 members

2017 – 90 members



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21/05/2018

2018 – 92 members, of which 12 are new

5. Election of Officers

Jeremy Birch was nominated for Chairman, seconded by Brian Everitt and accepted
Vince Mott was nominated for Secretary, seconded by Jeremy Birch and accepted
Geoff Bibby was nominated for Treasurer, seconded by Annie Ingram and accepted.

Election of committee members

The following people volunteered and were accepted as committee members:
Annie Ingram, Brian Everitt, Clare Birch, Derry Benson and Dave Bigby

6. Any Other Business

Joe Shaw – Schools competition?

Coleen Shaw – Regards houses/bungalows on Bullens Field. Had we considered that this would have brought more shoppers into Ashby? That had been taken into account, but the properties were going to be much larger than first thought. It is hoped that Bullens Field will be taken into the community. The Neighbourhood Plan has still not been approved by local governments inspectors.

Knotweed still not totally eradicated but the contractors will continue to treat the areas concerned.

Thank you to the volunteers, from the floor.

Stewart Kershaw informed us that the dead tree had been replaced but not removed.

Dave Bigby asked when the mosaic would be displayed again. It has been repaired but we are still in consultation as how to protect it best.

Dave Bigby raised the issue of a new planning application due for the Bath Grounds.