

Friends of Poulton and Pulford Community Park

Minutes of meeting held in Pulford Village Hall on 28th October 2021

1. Those attending – Dave Roberts (chairman), Peter Gosmore (treasurer), Kate Fairhurst (secretary), Glenys Evans (horticulture advisor), Jean Ewins, Pat Shore, Jane Yeoward, Jan West and Nick Franklin.

2. Apologies – Simon Pryce

3.

Chairman's report

Having recently taken over the chairmanship of the community park from the previous chairman Simon Pryce, Dave thanked Simon for the work he has done as chairman. He also welcomed Jean Ewin and Nick Franklin as new members of the committee.

3.3 Progress has been made regarding the projects listed below:-

(1) The paved area in front of the main gate of the park (Dave Roberts managing this). Despite 3 site meetings with the contractor John Ramsey, the work has not yet started.

(2) The installation of adult exercise equipment (the Captain Tom Trail) has not yet been started. Simon Pryce who is project manager is waiting for a third quote for the job. It is becoming more pressing that a contract for this work is put into place as we are informed by the Parish Council that if the grant for this project is not taken up by March 31st we will lose it. The committee feels that a contract needs to be in place by DEC 1st.

3.4 Considerable work was undertaken by volunteers on Sunday, 10th Oct within the park. It was decided to approach professional contractors to undertake remedial work. Glenys has arranged to employ hedge cutters who hopefully will shred existing branches lying around and Simply Greea to spray weedkiller by the fencing.

Concern has been raised about grass being left in situ after cutting. The contractor does not have the equipment nor facility for removing these. He recommends cutting the grass weekly instead of fortnightly would help to solve this problem. This would add an extra cost of £800 a year on top of what we already pay.

Glenys will liaise with him about his flexibility in this matter and then a decision, in consultation with the Parish Council can be made.

Painting/preserving of park furniture will take place next spring.

4 Financial report by Peter Gosmore.

4.1 The amount in the charity/community account with the Nat West Bank is £3,393.92.

4.2 The Parish Council is in control of a ringfenced sum of money that was donated when the park was set up. Barrie Evans, the PC clerk is in a better position to explain how much is left in this fund and how much is earmarked for park projects.

6 Safety within the park

Simon has not reported any major structural problems, however he does wish to pass on the responsibility to another. Dave to ask John Mckinnie if he would be prepared to be responsible for the health and safety aspect of the park. We need to be aware of what qualifications are needed to undertake this role.

7. Key to far gate.

Dave expressed concern that the gate belongs to the park and that although the land beyond belongs to the local residents who have a key, we as custodians of the park do not have a key to the gate which is kept locked. If only from the aspect of health and safety this is not a situation which can be tolerated. It was suggested that a solution would be that a key should be kept in a key safe located in an inconspicuous place in the park by the gate.

For information the code for the main gate is 4949.

8. Events within the park for 2022

The committee were keen for events to recommence in the park in 2022. In their enthusiasm exciting suggestions were made. The City of Chester Brass Band has already been booked for SUNDAY, 19th JUNE 2022. The chairman asked members to think of what events we could put on, and to bring their ideas to the next meeting

9. Village Christmas Tree.

9.1 The Parish Council will provide a Christmas Tree.

9.2 The Friends of the Park will decorate the tree as they did in 2020.

9.3 The committee agreed that a small celebration will take place when the lights are switched on

9.4 The Friends will provide mince pies, gluhwein, soft drinks, beverages, and possibly background music perhaps the Handbells/ PA system. It is hoped that this will take place on Friday 3rd Dec at 6pm (if the Christmas Tree has been delivered and decorated).

10 The current members of the committee are those recorded in 1 and 2 of these minutes.

12. The next meeting is on THURSDAY 25th NOV at 7pm in the Village Hall.