

FRIENDS OF BOLLINGTON RECREATION GROUND

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON THE 10th OCTOBER 2011 8.00pm

- 1. Present:** Carol Barnes (Chairman); David Naylor (Secretary); Sue Dale (Treasurer); Helen Wall; Philip Barnes; Roy Lowndes (Cheshire East Parks Manager); Jimmy Yea (Head Groundsman); James Hardy; Chris Park; Bill Livesley (Cheshire East Councillor); Michael Burdekin; and Rev John Lomas.
- 2. Apologies:** David Brandreth; Cllr. Ken Edwards (Deputy Town Mayor); Town Cllr. Angela Williams.
Helen mention Alex Douglas-Kane who had asked her to tell the Group that she would like to be invited when business issues were being discussed and was sure that other local business people would be pleased to come as well for such issues.
- 3. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th September 2011** were approved as a correct record.
- 4. Gardening Group Update**
David Brandreth was not present but the Group felt it needed to reduce its expectations regarding what could be achieved in the short term. The Horticultural Society could not take responsibility for areas of the gardens but would be able to provide help, and progress it from there. Helen suggested inviting representatives of the Society to the next meeting

ACTION the Secretary to Invite Representatives of the Horticultural Society to the next Meeting

- 5. Skate Park Tender**
David (The Secretary) informed the Group that the planning permission had now been obtained and a pre-qualifying questionnaire (PQQ) had been issued to 5 organisations thought capable of building the Skate Park. The closing date for return of the PQQ was Friday 28th October. The project was on track to complete by Friday 13th April next year.
- 6. Proposed use of the Recreation Ground for post natal fitness classes.**
The request to use the Ground for this purpose was discussed. It was noted that Cheshire East Council would have to give the permission, however, the Group was supportive subject to proper liaison with Jimmy Yea (Head Groundsman) concerning dates and times.

ACTION: David (the Secretary) to inform the applicant of the Group's comments and recommend her to contact Kath Swindells or Laura Ault – there will be risk assessments and application forms to complete.

7. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 2012 and FOBR 2012 events

David (the Secretary) circulated correspondence from Cheshire East Council and the Queen's Pageant Master concerning proposed local and national events over this long bank holiday weekend. One of the events was a proposed beacon at White Nancy. He mentioned the Town Council's efforts to co-ordinate activities and invited representatives from the Friends of the Recreation Ground to a meeting at the Bollington Town Hall on the 18th October at 7.30pm.

Carol reminded everyone that she was hoping to be able to fund a marquee jointly with the Festival Committee (£2000) but they were requiring a full business case. David pointed out that the Town Council was interested in acquiring a marquee and may be able to help. This would be discussed at the meeting.

The Family Picnic is being planned for Sunday 3rd June 2012 to coincide with The Big Jubilee Lunch. Carol (the Chairman) has approached the Brass Band to see if the junior group would like to play at the picnic.

It was noted that the intention was to have the Summer Fair on Saturday 7th July subject to there being no clash with other events.

John Lomas suggested a mass bass band event next year. John to look into how this could work and report back to the group.

Also the Pavilion could be used for events such as a Santa's Christmas Grotto.

8. Football Rules

Town Councillor and local referee Malcolm Bailey had asked for his suggested code of conduct for the Changing Rooms and Pavilion to be discussed. His aim was to ensure that the facilities were respected and looked after by users. The aim of the code of conduct was supported but it was felt that some of the issues needed to be rethought, for example the security – issuing keys or having code pad security will result in the keys being copied and the code disseminated which could invalidate insurance. Also some of the items are the responsibilities of the Friends, for example notifying and chasing the repairs etc., however, having cricket and football representatives reporting faults is to be welcomed but via an agreed route. The aim of getting the parties to talk was welcomed.

9. Bowling Club Matters

Jim Hardy, the Bowling Club Chairman, raised a number of issues. One of his key concerns was the time being taken to approve the construction of the new Bowling "Hut". Funding was in place and the drainage and asbestos surveys had been completed. The issue seemed to be that Cheshire East Council staff had no time to consider this matter which was an unreasonable situation – Tim Allen and Nick Cook were the Cheshire East Contacts.

ACTION: Cllr. Bill Livesley & Roy Lowndes to try and find out what is happening and if possible to release the bottleneck.

Jim then drew the Friends attention to the condition of the bowling green. This year the playability of the green had been much better because of the use of a "shockwave" machine. The machine inserted probes into the green and vibrated them to improve drainage. The clay subsoil required this process to be carried out annually. Cheshire East Council had such a machine but it was too large to fit through the gates of the

green's enclosure. At the end of last year Cheshire East hired a machine to do this. The cost to hire a machine would be under £300 and possibly much less if the machine was "self" operated by Jimmy, the Head Groundsman. The Bowling Club would also be willing to fund this if necessary.

Roy Lowndes notified the meeting that Marianne Hodgkinson was now in charge of parks and she and Dorian Belt would be the contacts.

ACTION: David (the Secretary) to write to Dorian and Marianne and ask for this work to be done as soon as possible.

10. Chairman's Inspection Report

This report would be available for the next meeting, however, Mike Burdekin noted that dog fouling had been reduced on the terraces.

11. Christmas dinner

Carol (the Chairman) suggested a Friend's Christmas dinner and Monday 5th December was agreed.

ACTION: Carol (the Chairman) to get menus from The Vale and Oliver's on Bollington Green. Numbers and venue to be agreed at next meeting.

12. Any Other Business

David (the secretary) advised the meeting that he'd had a request from Hey Days Nursery for the opportunity to fund raise on the Recreation Ground. The Friends were supportive of this but it could not include taking the profits from events at the Family Picnic or the Summer Fair which were key financial support mechanisms for the Friends and the Festival. However, there would be no problem with the Nursery hosting its own day or days on the Recreation Ground. It was suggested that August would be a good month to choose.

ACTION: David (the Secretary) to advise Hey Days of this situation

**Date of Next Meeting:
Monday 14th November 2011 at 7.30 pm**