

MEETING OF FRIENDS OF HORSHAM PARK (FOHP)

7pm 5th June 2008

The Park Barn, Horsham

Present:

Nigel Friswell – Chairman

Doreen Stirling,

Margaret Cornwell

Lindsay Bell

Anna Chapman

Alison Hendra

Carole Sorrell

Steve Snowdon

Apologies:

Doug Fletcher, Barbara Lunn, Carole Stokes

Minutes of last meeting

1. There were no comments on the minutes of the last meeting on 3 April.

Treasurer's Report

3. The Treasurer had informed the Chairman that the FOHP bank balance stood at £135.

Green Flag Award

4. Anna Chapman reported that HDC were awaiting the judging of their application for a Green Flag award.

Nursery

5. HDC was in the final stages of negotiation with WSCC, who are responsible for removing the building and returning the area to parkland. The aim was for this to be completed by October. The Chairman asked for a contact name in WSCC so that he could explore whether any of the old building would be suitable for the sea scouts who needed a new wooden building at Southwater. The proposal for returning the site to parkland included the removal of some trees. Anna agreed to find out more about this. The view of FOHP was that mature trees or bushes should be left unless there were good reasons for removing them, and it would like the opportunity to consider this aspect of the plans further.

Park Management Plan

6. The Plan had now been agreed by the Council and a copy of the final agreed plan would be sent to FOHP. The plan included permission for cycling in the park. HDC would be in touch with the Chairman about a press release.

Jubilee Entrance

7. There was no further progress on the plans for this area

Pathway by tennis courts

8. The widened path between North Street & the Jubilee car park would be getting its final surface shortly. Appropriate signage would be needed but HDC was mindful of the need for this to be in keeping with the park environment.

Vandalism in the Maze

9. The new seating was attracting teenage drinkers who were vandalising the area. HDC were in touch with the police about possible next steps, including checking CCTV footage if possible.

Wildflower planting and trial bed for medicinal plants

10. The council had again this year planted meadow seeds, including in the former putting green area. Overall, the seeds were not doing as well as last year because of the weather, and some areas would be re-seeded. HDC had also planted medicinal plants in a small area near the Barn. This concept might be developed for the former putting green area.

New Secretary for FOHP and future of FOHP

11. Doug Fletcher had said he would be stepping down as Secretary from the AGM in September. Everyone was appreciative of all the work he had done. No-one at the meeting felt they could take the job on, so next steps were for the Chairman to ask Doug for a job description which he could then circulate to all on his FOHP email list. The job description and request for a volunteer should also be circulated elsewhere as appropriate; including to the volunteer bureau, HDC staff, and placed on display on park notice boards. To make it easier to contact the officers of FOHP Steve Snowdon offered to set up new generic email addresses which could be linked to individuals. This would mean that the FOHP officers email contact addresses would remain the same even if the post-holders change. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Steve for this offer.

12. The Chairman said that without a new secretary the FOHP would not be able to continue (even if it turned into a sub-committee of the Horsham Society it would need a secretary), but everyone agreed that it was important to try and keep FOHP going, so every effort should be made to find a new secretary .

Future meetings:

NEXT MEETINGS: 11th September, 13th November

11th September is the AGM. In addition to the AGM, Mark Pullen would be invited to talk about trees in Horsham Park.