

Manor Fields Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 24 March 2016

Present

Angela Fookes, Peter Passmore, Dennis Hooper, Chris Hill, Karen Czernik, Liz Foster, Brendon Weager, Beverley Riley, Lee Shaw, and Jamie Shortland.

Apologies were received from Adam Barnes.

Angela welcomed Jamie to the meeting. He attended as the tree surgeon and agreed to continue as our tree representative in future.

Trees

Lee reported that after prolonged chasing of Ruth Baker, approval had finally been received for the tree surgery which we knew was needed. Jamie explained that he had been some time ago to carry out the work but had been unable to do so as written approval had not been given. As soon as this was received, he felled the poplar tree which had been causing concern. It proved to be in a much more dangerous state than we had thought and was very difficult to fell. A large hole remains where the tree stood. Jamie offered to erect a hazel fence round this for safety reasons. The London Plane tree which had been our second concern is partly impossible to climb without spikes (which are not allowed on this species of tree) due to poor cutting in the past. He managed to partly cut it back but next time will require a cherry-picker. His recommendation is that this tree be severely cut back or felled. When Ruth comes to make a post-work inspection, Jamie will try to attend and explain the problem to her. Angela suggested that any replacement trees be planted well away from the boundary line, possible as a new small copse in the North West corner of the south field.

Finance

The current balance is £4748.98 after paying for the tree work and the repairs to the field entrance. A bill of £826.30 from the council for mowing, hedge-cutting, and strimming during 2016 has still to be paid. £149.00 will be deducted from this bill to cover the cost of the bench which replaced the one damaged by the mower.

Field Entrance

The new surface has held up well over the winter despite all the wet weather.

New residents

Angela reported that a welcome pack had been given to the new residents where Huw formerly lived.

Charitable Status

The application to the Charity Commissioners is still ongoing. We are awaiting a reply from the solicitors regarding the transfer of ownership of the fields.

AGM/Newsletter/Appeal

As the CIO is unlikely to be set up for some time, an AGM will be required for the existing charity. This was provisionally arranged for 7th July. Peter will prepare a newsletter prior to this date for issue to all committee members at the next meeting. An appeal for donations will be included.

Risk assessment

The first committee meeting after the AGM should include a group inspection of the fields.

Football

From 14th April, Brampton Rovers under-9s will use the field for training every Thursday from 6-7pm. They will make a donation for the season.

Inkerman Buzz

The Friends of the Inkerman will have the concession for all catering at this year's event. It was decided to omit this event from our programme this year and concentrate our efforts on the Dog Event on 1st October.

Next Meeting

26th May.