

**Wootton Park Association – Annual General Meeting**  
**7.00pm - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018, South Wootton Parish Council Office**

**MINUTES**

**1. Present:** Will Border (Chair), Diana Gotts, David Price, Roy Williamson, Tracey Cornwell, Wendy Border, John Marshall-Grint  
In attendance: Mrs R Curtis (Clerk)

**2. Apologies** – Bridget Nurse, Sarah Crome, Matt Sturgeon

**3. To elect Chairman, Vice Chairman and to confirm the positions of Treasurer and Minute Secretary**

Chairman – Will Border was proposed by David Price, seconded by Roy Williamson and unanimously agreed by the committee.

Vice Chairman - Diana Gotts was proposed by David Price, seconded by Wendy Border and unanimously agreed by the committee.

Treasurer – Tracey Cornwell was proposed by Will Border and seconded by John Marshall-Grint and unanimously agreed by the committee.

Minute Secretary – Rachel Curtis was proposed by Will Border and seconded by David Price and unanimously agreed by the committee.

**4. Chairpersons Report**

Will Border read the following report;

This year has proved to be a challenging year for the Wootton Park Association. The year can be summed up in a few words; vandalism and very wet weather!! Both of which I will talk about in a moment.

Some of the projects that have been done over the year have included, clearing and planting an area on the cycle path next to the North Wootton School gate. This will hopefully mature over this summer and start to produce a splash of colour. South Wootton strip has been flailed back, and the laurel hedge has been bought back under control. One of the foot bridges on north Wootton strip has been replaced as it was showing signs of decay, and would have become a danger in the future. Gates have been put up on both the entrances of Bede Close & Cranmer Avenue this year. The gate on Cranmer Avenue going into the car park and is being shut & locked during the hours of darkness. This has had a very positive effect on the levels of litter & anti-social behavior in the car park.

A lot of the year has been marred by a few acts of anti-social behavior on the park. As I report this year we have had still two investigations by the Police, The vandalism has ranged from graffiti on the skate board ramp to a full blown arson attack on one of the picnic tables. One of the culprits admitted to being part to the arson and has been put forward for a “Challenge for Change” Scheme, so with the help of the youth offender’s team, it is hoped to re-educate the youngsters without giving them a criminal record. These incidents are very frustrating as it soaks up money that could be better used on other projects in the park. All we ask is for parishioners to be vigilant and report incidents straight away.

The Picnic in the Park this year was held in June and the weather was fantastic for it. I feel both the People on the Picnic in the Park Committee and the Football Club rose to the challenge on the day to make it a really good event. We did raise some funds that is being held by the Picnic Committee until a suitable project is approved for the expenditure. I would like to personally thank everyone that helped out on the day to make it such a success, especially Councilor Bridget Nurse for her guidance in how to plan such an event.

The WPA 200 Club is now in its second year, this is another way of raising much needed funds for the park, this currently has 86 members with a top monthly prize of £34.40 from this we have managed to give away over £1100 in prizes, and have put £1000 into the Wootton park account. It would be really fantastic if we could get the number up to over 100 members.

I am pleased to report that the club finances are as solid as they were last year. We started the year with £2040 in the account and we end it with just over £2787. The breakdown of this will be covered at greater length in the treasurers report.

The services of the community payback team continue to be of benefit to the park with various jobs being tackled over the year. This has ranged from general pruning in the park to painting the pavilion floor. One of the most satisfactory tasks was achieved over the winter months when a vast amount of wood chippings that were down in the car park to stop it getting too muddy. We really did see some benefit from this.

This brings me onto the weather! This winter has been exceptionally bad for general rainfall in the area, and according to the Kings Lynn Drainage Board the rain water flowing into the rivers has been exceptional. We have seen the effect of this on the Park over the past 6 months where some parts have never really dried out. This has really shown us the need to keep on top of the drainage issues on the park and especially the low lying area immediately by the bridges that lead into the car park. This has also been a problem for the football club using the car park, and the fact that the pitches which have been unplayable for a lot of the winter.

Therefore my vision for the next year is to try to continue to raise funds for the park and then start to address the drainage issues on the park, as if we are going to have wetter winters this will become a priority. I would just wish to extend my thanks to everyone this year who has helped in the park. These range from the parishioners that have rolled up their sleeves, to the locals and friends that have come along and supported the fund raising events. To all those at the football club that have helped out at the joint events held on the park. Not forgetting this committee for keeping me on the right path, with many a word of wisdom. Without everyone's commitment it would be an impossible task to complete.

## **5. Treasurers Report**

The following report had been circulated to all and there were no questions.

I am pleased to report that the Wootton Park finances remain solid. We started the year with £2040.35 in the account and we end it with just over £2787.43. This includes the transfer of £1,000 into the account from the Wootton Park 200 Club and includes a contribution of £200 towards the Bede Close barrier and £155 paid for the wildflower seeds for the South and North Wootton Strips. I feel we still must not forget to address the issue of the misspent funds from Picnic on the Park however, after the vandalism to the picnic table, I am not sure how best to deal with this situation.

Thanks to Will we have managed to create £819.50 of income from the 3 social events that have been held over the course of the year. The Race Night raised £85.00, Bingo Night £141.50 and the Quiz Night raised £593.00.

The WPA 200 Club has 86 members and as mentioned above has injected the Wootton Park Account with £1000. Hopefully over the year to come, we can encourage more residents to join.

The budget spend on behalf of the two Parish Councils was reduced this year as we no longer have employees working at the park to a figure of £9980. With a new Barrier for Cranmer Avenue and Bede Close, Time Credits and, an overspend under the Pest Control and Inspection fees heading for the weekly inspection of the Play Equipment by CGM, the actual amount spent is £11,189.83 (All items within this overspend were authorized by both Parish Councils). The Parish Councils have looked at our proposals for this coming year 2018/19 and have increased our budget again to £12,500 to allow valuable works and improvements to continue. We will carry on using their money wisely and will always consult prior to any unexpected expenditure.

## **6. Football Club Report**

No report had been received from the football club.

## **7. To approve the minutes of the last meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018**

These were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

## **8. Matters Arising**

None that would not be covered in the agenda.

## **9. Questions from the Public**

There were no public present.

## **10. Correspondence**

A resident had written to complain about inconsiderate parking by parents and churning up mud when turning their vehicles to drop off children for football in early April. The resident believes that the 'No Vehicle Access' signage is in the wrong place which leaves parents thinking they can park up until the signs. There was also a heated exchange by another resident and a football coach. Will had replied to the resident and apologised and apparently the argument with the football coach was resolved. The committee discussed the placement of the signs and agreed that they should remain where they are as it is part of the ongoing project to create more spaces to park in amongst the trees. It was agreed that Will is to order another sign to place on the gate to try and give clearer instructions re parking.

## **11. Finance**

- The balance on the Wootton Park Running Costs account as at 31/03/18 is £15,621.94. Insurance has been paid twice and will therefore not be charged to the accounts for 18/19. The actual spend for materials/repairs/spares and maintenance is £1,000 over budget – this is due to unexpected costs to the skate ramps and flailing hedges. New equipment costs exceeded budget due to the purchase and installation of barriers at the car park. It was noted that there was a cost of over £600 for fertilizer for the Park, Will to talk to the Football Club to split the cost of this in future as it benefits them. Total spend for the year is £16,271.74, it had been previously agreed to budget for £12,500 costs for 18/19 as there is no additional work planned to be carried out for this year. The hedge near to Little Walsingham Close and Clare Road was mentioned as needing to be cut, Will to look into this.

- The closing balance on the Wootton Park Association Account is £2,787.43, income was £4,224.83 and expenditure is £1,437.40.

## **12. 200 Club**

Draw taken on 88 members, currently £1,837.80 in the funds.

*Draw for February;*

1<sup>st</sup> Prize, £35.20 – Mr S Scales

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, £26.40 – Mr T Kirby

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, £17.60 – Mrs J Long

*For March;*

1<sup>st</sup> Prize, £35.20 – Mr E Roper

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, £26.40 – Mrs S Crome

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, £17.60 – Mr D Price

*For April;*

1<sup>st</sup> Prize, £35.20 – Mr R Houchen

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, £26.40 – J Day

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, £17.60 – S Baxter

## **13. Pavilion and Park**

- *Car Park Project* – No further progress, intend to clear areas at the Bede Close entrance. The committee decided that a surface of cockle shells would not be appropriate due to the smell and it is believed it can encourage rats.

- *Pavilion Roof Repair* – Jarvis Roofing has completed a temporary repair, it was agreed that the roof lights do not serve a purpose and would be best boarded up, an indicative quote is £400, Will proposed that this work is done, seconded by Roy and unanimously agreed, Tracey to follow up.

- *Play Area Report* – Will suggested that the community payback team can repaint the play area equipment, and Tracey suggested that the cycle inhibitor could be painted also. The committee agreed on a budget of £200 for Will to purchase paint to use on these jobs.

*Bridge Safety* – David said he had some chicken wire surplus to requirements from the Junior School allotment, Will to use this to cover the bridge to give a firmer grip under foot.

- *Dyke Clearance* – Will presented some photos of the stretches of dyke falling into North and South Wootton Parish. It was noted that the build-up of silt over the years, tree branches, debris and rubbish has meant that the water level in the dykes is rising and the flow of water inhibited. This is not just an issue for Wootton Park as under riparian law – land owners whose properties adjoin a body of water have a duty to pass on the flow of water without obstruction and maintain the bed and banks and be responsible for protection of land from flooding. Will, Tracey and David will be meeting with a representative from the IDB to discuss the issue as a whole and will report back to the next meeting.

#### **14. NCS/Community Pay Back**

- NCS - Will has not heard anything from this group.
- Community Payback – Paint areas as detailed above and lay some paving slabs.

#### **15. Green Gym**

Concentrating on dyke clearance and litter picking for the next few weeks.

#### **16. Specific Requests for Tree Pruning on the Park**

No requests at present.

#### **17. Events**

- Picnic in the Park will not go ahead this year due to lack of volunteers. It is thought perhaps it will be a bi-annual event.

#### **18. Any other business**

- Wendy suggested that a new bench could be put on the Park near to the School, agreed Tracey to follow up.
- Diana thanked Will for his report which was used at the SW Parish Council meeting.
- Growth in the wild flower strips is looking promising.

#### **19. Date of Next Meeting**

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

..... Chairman

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018.