

FRIENDS OF PRIORY FIELDS

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING ON 12 JANUARY 2012

Present: John Bishop (Chairman) Geoffrey Woricker
 Ian Read (Vice Chairman) Den Harvey
 Linden Rosam (Treasurer)
 Chris Saltmarsh
 Kate Hardingham (Secretary)
 Peter Athey

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	The absence of Peter Nightingale and Julie & Bob Norman was noted and accepted.
2.	MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING
	The minutes for the Committee meeting held on 8 December 2011 were approved and then signed by the Chairman.
	It was noted that the Green Flag renewal application was completed by John Bishop.
3.	PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES
	Land Trust
	<i>Peter Athey declared his conflict of interest in this item.</i>
	<p>Linden Rosam and John Bishop attended the Parish Council (PC) meeting on 10 January and reported that they were invited to make a statement. It was noted that the statement made was to the effect that the FoPF Committee were willing to consider a joint sub-committee with the PC but that the FoPF Committee's position remains that the land is held in trust. It was agreed that the statement fairly reflected the views of the FoPF Committee but that, going forward, individual FoPF Committee members should not feel pressurised into responding to a timetable set by the PC without first being able to discuss matters with the FoPF Committee as a whole.</p> <p>It was noted that the PC has put forward its nominations for the joint sub-committee – Chris Saltmarsh, Bob Webster and Albert Mair. The Chair of the PC indicated, at that meeting, that it was the PC's intention that the sub-committee be as independent as possible and likened its status to the committees that run the village halls.</p> <p>A first draft of a mandate for the sub-committee was presented to the meeting for discussion.</p> <p>After discussion of the possible timetable for discussions with the PC it was agreed that at this meeting (a) the Committee would agree whether or not to continue discussions with the PC regarding the establishment of a joint sub-committee and (b) agree who should be the Committee's nominations to the joint sub-committee should it go ahead. Following the meeting the Committee members would also feed back any comments on the draft mandate to John Bishop and Linden Rosam for their ongoing discussions with the PC.</p>

	<p>The Committee debated at length the advantages and disadvantages of entering into a joint sub-committee. It was agreed that an independent 'group' of some constitution comprising members appointed by both the PC and the Committee would solve some of the historic problems with the FoPF working on the Fields (such as contractor appointment and insurance issues). However, it was also noted that the current proposal (a) gave no protection to the security of the Fields from future disposal by the PC (or its successors) as would a formal recognition of the trust; (b) did not clearly set out how much independence the sub-committee would have from the PC; or (c) set out how such arrangement could be terminated.</p> <p>Chris Saltmarsh, as the PC representative, considered it likely that the PC would be open to the idea of entering into a deed of covenant with the Committee which would restrict its use of the Fields to its current 'open space' or similar.</p> <p>The alternative courses of action open to the Committee were discussed. The Committee also discussed the practicalities of entering into a joint sub-committee including reviewing the Committee's constitution and considering whether the approval of the Heritage Lottery Fund is required. The Committee noted that any potential claim against the PC could be affected by the Statute of Limitations.</p> <p>Following discussion of the above issues it was agreed that Linden Rosam, John Bishop and Ian Read enter into discussions with PC, including presenting them with a draft mandate, to investigate the formation of the 'Priory Fields Management Group'.</p> <p>LINDEN ROSAM, JOHN BISHOP AND IAN READ TO ATTEND DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PC COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO FEED COMMENTS ON THE MANDATE BACK TO THE NOMINEES</p> <p><i>Peter Athey expressed his regret that, due to his personal conflict in this matter, he would not be putting himself forward as a Committee representative but gave his support to the Committee in moving forward in negotiations with the PC and reiterated his intention to be involved with the management of the Fields.</i></p>
4.	TREASURERS REPORT
	The report updated to end December 2011 was presented to the meeting.
	<i>PETER ATHEY LEFT THE MEETING</i>
	It was noted that approximately £1000 to be moved from the savings account to the current account has yet to be moved and that a large servicing bill for the mowers would be settled in January.
5.	ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT
	Nothing to report.
6.	WEBSITE
	<p>A couple of possible future items were discussed and it was agreed that these should be collated so that a work request covering several items can be made to the web manager to maximise cost savings.</p> <p>IAN READ TO NOTE FOR FUTURE WORK REQUEST</p>
7.	WORKING PARTIES

	Work will continue clearing the ditch from the main entrance northwards.
8.	MALDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL GROUP
	<p>It was noted that the MAHG have reported that they have completed as far as possible their current study and they have concluded with reasonable certainty that the Priory would have extended into the land still owned by Mr Chambers. MAHG have got permission from Mr Chambers to dig on his land.</p> <p>Discussions took place regarding the possibility of purchasing further land from Mr Chambers in order to preserve the entire (so far as MAHG can currently tell) site of the former Priory and the prospect of further funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The Committee also noted that it would be appropriate to have the Arch re-inspected and agreed that Chris Saltmarsh should approach Bakers of Danbury to discuss their previous quote for the work. It was agreed that these matters be deferred until such time as the issue of the proposed joint management group with the PC has been concluded.</p> <p>It was further agreed that MAHG should be allowed access to the Monument Field at a future working party to mark out the boundaries of the former Priory in the Monument Field. It was noted that the HLF had previously given their permission for such marking out to occur in the Monument Field but they should be made aware that this work is now to be carried out.</p> <p>JOHN BISHOP TO CONTACT HLF</p> <p>The possibility of asking MAHG to assist the Committee in preparing a leaflet regarding what they have discovered and involving local artists in the creation of an artist's impression/scale model was discussed.</p> <p>GEOFFREY WORICKER TO LIAISE WITH MAHG</p>
9.	ACTIVITIES
	<p>The possibility of running a painting competition this year following the same format as the photographic competition last year was discussed and it was agreed that Jo Britter be asked to assist the Committee in running it. It was agreed that the competition should be aimed at young people and children and should be judged at the end of the school summer term. It was also agreed that Rod Brown be asked to judge the competition and should be contacted imminently for his ideas on rules and categories.</p> <p>JOHN BISHOP TO SPEAK TO JO BRITTER</p>
10.	GREEN FLAG/BROWN SIGN/PUBLICITY
10.1	Green Flag
	It was noted that the application had been completed and submitted on time.
10.2	Brown Sign
	It was agreed that this matter be deferred until such time as the issue of the proposed joint management group with the PC has been concluded.
10.3	Publicity
	It was noted that Julie Norman had been unable to submit articles to In Touch and the

	Danbury Journal this month due to illness in her family.
11.	NEWS ITEMS
	There will be a spare set of keys to the Pitman Room available for the Committee.
	It was noted that Japanese Knotweed is in the vicinity of Five Acres, but as that is downstream, it is not yet travelling up towards the Fields. It was also described how difficult it is to remove and how stringent the requirements are for its disposal.
	It was agreed that the entrance onto Moor Hall Lane would be formally closed for at least 24 hours on Wednesday 18 January 2012, as part of a regular closure programme, to ensure no rights of way are created over the entrance.
	It was agreed that the Committee should register one of the working party volunteering events on the BTCV website to retain the Committee's membership. LINDEN ROSAM TO REGISTER
	After discussion it was agreed that the process for recording the field inspections should be amended so as to include an audit trail showing the items raised as concerns on the forms are raised at Committee level or dealt with more urgently if necessary and reported to the Committee.
	It was agreed that the AGM be moved to 18 October 2012. CHRIS SALTMARSH TO CHECK THE ROOM IS FREE
12.	NEXT MEETING
	The next main Committee meeting will be held on 9 February 2012.
	Meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed:

Date: