

FRIENDS OF PRIORY FIELDS

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2012

Present: John Bishop (Chairman) Geoffrey Woricker
 Ian Read (Vice Chairman)
 Linden Rosam
 Peter Athey
 Peter Nightingale
 Den Harvey

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	Apologies received from: Kate Hardingham, Julie Norman, Bob Norman and Chris Saltmarsh
2.	MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING
	The minutes of the January meeting were approved – proposed by John Bishop and seconded by Den Harvey
	The minutes of the February meeting were approved – proposed by Peter Nightingale and seconded by Geoffrey Woricker
3.	PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES
	There are children’s events to be held on the fields (in collaboration with PC) on 2 nd and 12 th April 2012 for which helpers are required on the day, between 11-12 am plus about 1 hour setup. Jo, Ian, John and Den will convene a preparation meeting to ensure that everything is available for these events. A meeting with PC reps will be held next week to firm up these plans.
	Jubilee Picnic: PC has informed us that they wish to hold an event of some kind on 3 rd June on the fields although there is no further information at present.
	Olympics Event: PC have asked us if some kind of event could be arranged on the fields on 21 st July. Ideas were discussed along the lines of 1.5km races for different age groups around the jogging track; although no final decision made at this stage.
	Village of the Year: PC has mentioned that they will apply for this award again this year. Bicknacre was awarded 2 nd place last year and would like to gain 1 st place this year. The entry must be made in April. No further information at the present time.
	Parish Annual Assembly: This meeting will be held on 11 May at Bicknacre Village Hall.
	Proposed Joint Committee: A meeting is to be held between PC reps and ourselves probably Tues or Wed next week and this will be on the agenda. We note that legal advice tells us that there should be no mention of 1976 Act in the Deed of Covenant and that there should be reference to the 2006 HLF document because, as a submitted and accepted application for funding, it forms a contract between ourselves (FoPF) and the Parish Council. Action: LR to scan documents
	An update report to HLF is due but has been held back for the time being awaiting clarification of the proposed joint committee.

4.	TREASURERS REPORT/BUDGET ITEMS
	<p>Cheques were produced for: Husqvarna mower service of £159.48 Petrol: £20.90 IR reported that the service bill is considerably less than he had expected and speculated that this may be because of the damage sustained to the mower whilst with Chelmsford Grass Machinery, although they will not admit any liability for the damage. The mower works well but has been aesthetically damaged.</p>
	PA left the meeting at 8.35 pm
5.	ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
	Nothing to report.
	<p>Biodiversity Project PN reported that we may not get best value from this scheme due to the current phase of our project. In comparison, the environmental stewardship (ES) will produce more income for management of the land. At some future time we will most likely have to pay to have the fields cut because the hay will be of insufficient value for our current arrangement, hence, the ES project will be more appropriate for us in the long term.</p>
	<p>Natural England PN needs to find out if he needs to re-do the dormouse certificate or whether the existing one can be resurrected. To this end someone from Natural England will probably visit the fields, PN to keep us informed. It might be useful if we could apply to become a local nature reserve, however, we would require PC backing. [something about SSSI]</p>
	Action: JB to check forms re environmental stewardship
	<p>OTHER PN told us about a hedge laying demonstration held by the National Trust that he attended at Copthall. Scouts will be making 10 nest boxes for the fields although we're not sure quite what they are intended for at this time.</p>
6.	WEBSITE
	Nothing specific to report other than the usual updates have been done.
7.	WORKING PARTIES
	<p>Ditches have been cleared up to the football pitches. The environment agency have been along and cleared the brook and left quite a mess to tidy up. Unfortunately the persons doing the job do not appear to be too aware of exactly what they are doing and in future it would be great if they could let us know when they're coming along. The next working party will begin clearing the debris at the sides of the brook on the south side; tidying brambles on pathways. Brian Riley of Maldon Archaeological Society attending on Saturday and may need some assistance. There were no specifics in the recent field inspection reports. We're very grateful to Den for fixing the fascia on the garage, which was hanging down.</p>
8.	EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
	Due to the Olympics and the Jubilee there is so much happening in June/July that we decided to postpone the art competition for this year. Jo will liaise with the local schools suitably early for next year's event(s). Rod has agreed to judge the competition next year.

	A suggestion was made that we could hold a photo competition about summer events held on the fields, although there was some concern about the legal implications of photographing children. Action: JB to speak with clerk about this.
9.	PUBLICITY/GREEN FLAG AWARD
	Brown sign in abeyance at present, there is too much else happening.
10.	NEWS ITEMS
	GW asked if we can confirm the documents required by insurers/PC for Simon to carry out the hay cut this year. John said he is still awaiting a response from PC.
12.	NEXT MEETING
	The next main Committee meeting will be held on 12 April 2012
	Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed:

Date: