



Friends of Mirrlees Fields & Mirrlees Fields Action Group

Annual General Meeting

28 November 2013

MINUTES

1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>David Kemp welcomed all members.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Wendy Postna, Committee member Stepping Hill Ward Councillors Mark Weldon, Ben Alexander and Wendy Orrell (Full Council meeting)</p>
3.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>The treasurer gave her report. Income for the previous year amounted to £2000.63 which included a grant from the area funding (Stepping Hill) and monies from the public and members via activities organised on the fields and collected at the Hazel Grove Carnival. The expenditure was £917.86 which included an amount of £375 paid to the Cheshire Wildlife Trust for their invaluable help in organising consultation events on the fields. This left a balance at 31/10/13 of £1082.77</p> <p>The treasurer also reported on further expenditure for the following year for improvements to the foot path leading onto the fields at a cost of £805.54.</p> <p>The treasurer also explained a little about the idea of becoming a charity and how that may be help in raising funds in future.</p> <p>A copy of the full treasurer's report is attached.</p> <p>Report Proposed by David Gosling and Seconded by Peter Wingle. The report was accepted.</p>
4.	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Committee Updates</p> <p>The committee continued to hold regular meetings through the year. The previous committee was joined by 5 new Committee members.</p> <p>Geoff Taylor, Carol Condiffe, Gail Escott and Phil Butcher stood down from the Committee and thanks were extended to them for their help. Thanks were also extended</p>



to Gordon Hutchinson of Friends of Great Moor Park for the use of the Pavilion in the park.
Committee roles were allocated amongst Committee members. The Committee stands at 12 members.

Planning Issues

Boundary fence: The decision on the planning application on the boundary fence was still outstanding but the Council is unlikely to reject it.

Amendment to housing development (additional housing): No opposition had been put forward from the Committee for this change.

Original housing planning application progress: No developer had yet been found and detailed plans will not be forthcoming until this happens. MFAG will comment on any development plans when they are known. The footpath improvement, requested under a S106 planning condition, will not happen until the development begins.

Warehouse construction planning application (old): Trees planted as part of the landscaping programme which have been damaged will be replaced.

Members' Issues

Assault on fields: Following the assault that took place on the field MFAG and PCSO had had a meeting. The Police had dealt with this incident and reported that the attacker was not allowed onto the fields.

Public Right of Way petition: A member had requested the Committee's support for additional Public Rights of Way across the fields. After consultation with stakeholders and discussions at Committee level, it was felt that this would have a negative impact on the long term objective of sustainable future and public access to the fields and so was not supported.

Fence issue: The member's issues regarding the erection of the fence have been investigated by MAN and the Council Planning Officers. The Committee agreed with the findings and now consider the matter closed.

Boundary trees: A request from a member to remove a tall tree had been received by MAN. CWT is developing a land management plan and therefore work will only be undertaken on those trees that pose an immediate risk to health or property.

Warehouse lights: MFAG will follow up on the issue of the external lights being on all night given that until recently they were switched off after 20:00.

Dog mess: Following proactive work by the Committee members, there seems to be some improvement in this problem. The Committee are developing links with The Association of Professional Dog Walkers and the Council.



Other Activities

Great Moor Junior School: MFAG supported staff and pupils at Great Moor School by providing historical and geographical context when the school visited the fields. It is hoped that permissive access will be granted for future ventures of this sort.

Hazel Grove Gardening Club: MFAG and CTW have been asked to give a talk on their activities and the local ecology.

Communication Updates: In 2013 the issues concentrated on were widening awareness of the fields, the work of the group and the potential planning/development, as well as continuing to develop a positive and productive relationship with MAN and their PR representative.

Success has been manifest in increasing the email distribution list, 150 face book members, and exceptional attendance at both activities organised on the fields. The group has also raised their profile with the local Councillors and had a successful application for funding granted.

Key areas of focus for 2014:

- Brand Consistence
- Digital Presence
- Local Presence
- Consultation Output

Fundraising

Some income has been generated this year from various sources. However, the scope for fundraising is limited because of the lack of a spatial strategy and clear vision for the fields and the current status of MFAG.

Events and Consultations

Mirlees Eco Walk and Bat Walk: Both events were extremely successful and large numbers of people attended. These opportunities were used to get people's views on the future of the fields as part of a community consultation exercise.

Other Events - Hazel Grove Carnival and Flowery Field Allotments Open Day: These events were also used to contribute to the community consultation exercise regarding the future of the fields.

Consultation Output: Despite the varied and different demographics of people who contributed at the community consultation events, there was similarity in the responses given. Consultation suggests that respondents are very much in favour respecting,



maintaining and enhancing the 'natural' feel of the fields.

Relationships with MAN and CTW

MAN: Following last year's AGM, MAN instigated regular meetings with MFAG which has allowed for member's issues to be discussed along with any progress and activity on the fields. All in all the relationship has been positive.

CWT: MFAG facilitated the liaison between MAN and CWT. MAN is in the process of becoming a Corporate Member of CWT. CWT have expertise in managing sites such as Mirrlees Fields. MFAG provide the link between the community and CWT which will allow for the much needed volunteers and local ownership of the management of the fields to be generated.

Future of the fields and activities

Volunteers are sought for January to help with the foot path improvements. A programme of future activities will be planned but any ideas are welcome from members.

MAN wants the green space to benefit the wider community. The spatial strategy for the fields is expected in the first quarter of 2014 and the relationship between MFAG, CWT and MAN should help with the management of the fields.

ENDS

David Gosling said that the Chairman's report at this AGM had been positive, with good relationships between MFAG, CWT and MAN, as well as the success of the events that had been held.

The Report was proposed by Sue Bailey and was seconded.

Nominations and elections

No further nominations to Committee were received. The following Committee members were duly elected to roles as below:

Role	Committee Member
Chair	David Kemp**
Deputy Chair	Jim Gillian
Communications Officer	Rachel Stoba**
Treasurer	Gene Allen*



	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Membership Secretary</td> <td>David Gosling**</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Secretary</td> <td>Alison Marsden</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minutes Secretary</td> <td>Hilary Fletcher</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anglers' Liaison</td> <td>Brian Waddington</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Committee Member</td> <td>Bill Crofts Sandra Crofts Charlie Gallagher Wendy Postma</td> </tr> </table> <p>*denotes nominated bank account signatory **denotes nominated bank account signatory & charitable trustee</p>	Membership Secretary	David Gosling**	General Secretary	Alison Marsden	Minutes Secretary	Hilary Fletcher	Anglers' Liaison	Brian Waddington	General Committee Member	Bill Crofts Sandra Crofts Charlie Gallagher Wendy Postma
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	<p>Motions to AGM</p> <p>The following two motions were considered by AGM and were duly accepted via a show of hands vote:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Proposal to register as an organisation with charitable purpose 2) Proposal of name change to 'Mirrlees Fields Friends Group' 										
11.	<p>History Project</p> <p>Sue Bailey gave an updated account of the History Project. She said that she and Roger had now collected data on the history of the wider area of Woodsmoor. This was wonderfully illustrated by slides.</p>										
12.	<p>Close of Meeting</p> <p>The meeting closed on time at 8.40 p.m.</p>										