# PRIORY PARK FRIENDS' GROUP

# **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**



**Held:** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012 at 7.30 pm.

Venue: St Neots Football Pavilion, Loves Farm, St Neots

**Present:** Paul Davies lan Jackson

Francisca Shaw Ian Toye + 41 members

Anna van der Hart Ron Jones

Ann Scott

Sooh Boocock (Huntingdonshire District Council)
Barry Chapman (St Neots Town Council Mayor)

**Apologies:** There were no apologies for absence.

#### 1. Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone and requested that they sign in and update their email addresses, this being the cheapest way to communicate. He expressed thanks to the staff of Love's Farm Football Pavilion for allowing PPFG free use of the building.

# 2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May, which had been on the web site were accepted as a true record and signed. Proposed by Fiona Lockett and seconded by Annette Lewis.

#### 3. Resolution to amend Constitution

The Chairman reported that the Committee had amended the Constitution. It had proved to be slightly ambiguous and unclear in places. He proposed that the meeting adopt the amendments which had been circulated with the Spring Newsletter. Paper copies were available on the table.

The main amendment was for a total of 5 committee members - 3 executive officers plus 2 general committee members, with the power to co-opt others if needed with full voting rights. The quorum would be 3. Richard van der Hart proposed and Sooh Boocock seconded the Resolution which was unanimously accepted.

# 4. Chairman's Report for the Previous Year

Paul reported that the Committee had had a busy year working to maintain and improve the Park.

Applications for grants had been successful and £500 had been received from the Town Council, £460 from the Waitrose charity token scheme and £100 from Rotary. Some of the money had been used to buy 12 bird boxes and 2 owl boxes, adding to the 10 put up last year. The Committee had and helped HDC plant 10 conifers and had purchased 50 whips – hawthorn, blackthorn, dogwood and hazel and had planted them on the Huntingdon Road boundary which was

thinning out. A bench had been purchased from HDC with a brass plaque for the Jubilee and would be put in place soon alongside the zip wire at the southern edge of the Park.

- Over the past month the Committee had been laying tons of woodchip
  to improve the muddy path from Rowley Road to the children's play
  area. More woodchip is needed to complete the remaining 150 metres.
  Thanks to all who had helped and to Sooh Boocock for obtaining the
  woodchip free from Gallagher's at Love's Farm. This was the first stage
  in a planned "Nature Trail" for that area.
- Ron Jones was the new Web Master and he has been very busy adding content including lots of pictures – look at PPFGSTNEOTS.ORG. Paul thanked Julie Evans-Doran for initially setting up the website.
- Paul thanked Sooh Boocock who was now leaving HDC for all her commitment and help to the group over the past two years.
- Regarding planning matters, Paul reported that to date there had been
  no application for planning permission to build on the Swimming Pool or
  Technical College sites received by Steve Ingram, Planning Officer at
  HDC who had agreed to let the Committee know as soon as any such
  application was received. However, as there was a possibility that
  Technical College might close, and the value of that land for building
  would be high, the Committee would continue to remain vigilant.
- A "Spring Clean" of the Park was planned for this Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00 a.m. at the Football Pavilion and it was hoped members would support this.
- Under the leadership of lan Toye, it was hoped to create a Nature Trail
  in the Park to be used by local schools. The first stage was to get the
  footpath upgraded and so help with the wood-chipping would be
  appreciated.
- In conclusion, the Chairman thanked HDC, the Park Manager Peter Haynes, Sooh Boocock of the Operations Division for all their help and thanked the very hard-working Committee which has been so active on the members' behalf in protecting the lovely Park.

### 5. Treasurer's Report

Francisca Shaw reported the accounts were on the table for everyone to see. They had been examined and audited by the Accountant Colin Anderson. At 31<sup>st</sup> March there was £509. 42p in the Bank and 191 members.

A move to receive the accounts was proposed by Chris Low and seconded by Alison Davies, and all were in favour.

## 6. Election of the Committee

There were five positions on the Committee and the following were unanimously reelected according to the Constitution – Paul Davies (Chairman), Francisca Shaw-(Treasurer), Anna van der Hart (Secretary), Ian Jackson and Ian Toye (general Committee members).

# 7. Any Other Business

- Nicki Charlton questioned whether the position of the new bench might make it susceptible to vandalism. Sooh Boocock replied that it would be maintained by HDC and had a warranty.
- Nicki Walsh asked whether yellow lines could be painted on Priory Hill Road intermittently to stop car parking and Cambs. County Council would be contacted about this.
- Jo Charlton asked whether the football team coaches could be reminded to pick up the litter left after matches and Sooh Boocock would report this to HDC.
- Members were reminded that if they needed to report bad behaviour by dogs/owners they could contact the Dog Warden at HDC.
- Ian Jackson proposed a vote of thanks to Ann Scott, who was retiring from the Committee.
- Barry Chapman, Mayor of St Neots, congratulated the Group on its efforts and had supported it by way of a Town Council grant. He commented that the Technical College land was landlocked and could not have access through the swimming pool site.

Meeting ended at 8.15 followed by "History of Priory Park" by Peter Ibbett.