

## **FOPP committee meeting 6.30pm 16 June, Park View**

**Present:** Carol Cole, Joe McNulty, Clive Shepherd, Jackie Sutton, Andy Jeavons, Kerry Pickett

**Apologies:** Siriol Hugh-Jones, Dimitri Mehandziski, Rose Jones, Garry Meyer, Keith Upton

New committee member Jackie Sutton was introduced and welcomed.

### **1) Minutes of last meeting and action points.**

#### **Action:**

- Siriol Hugh-Jones to attend future committee meetings on an observer basis
- Kerry Pickett will take on the role of FoPP secretary.
- Paul Gorringer confirmed that he has the painted stones from the rock painting competition. We will distribute them around the park in September

### **2) De-brief of Preston Village Open Day Event 22 June**

The FoPP classical music ensemble proved a success and was well received at the Preston Village Open Day. Andy Jeavon's guided Rockery tours were also well supported. Around £45 was given in donations. It was noted that it would be a good idea to provide another event next year. It was also suggested that we might also provide something for younger participants so as to increase the age range of attendees at the event.

### **3) Feedback from meeting between Carol Cole, Andy Jeavons and City Parks Strategy, Projects and Operations**

During the meeting it was outlined what had been planned and implemented in the park with funding from Section 105 connected to the old Co-op building in London Road. In the Coronation Garden paving and access was improved; landscape changes were made to the meadow; handrails were removed; and an access ramp was built to the Manor. In the Rose Garden the long borders were re-designed by Dominic Cole and planted; benches were restored; long borders were mulched; circular borders were installed. In the play area, new play houses in the sandpit were installed; swings were replaced and an accessible roundabout fitted.

In 2019 works were funded through park parking income. Three park interpretation boards were re-designed and updated; two welcome boards were installed; the restoration of 12 benches has started; the sanding and re-staining of 14 benches that surround what was the old bowling greens was completed; signage for petanque was replaced; permanent signage for Rotunda pond newts was installed; Rose Garden interpretation signage was replaced; Twin Elms signage was straightened; urns in the Rose Garden were repaired and cleaned; two Brookham accessible picnic tables were installed. In the Coronation Garden new timbers were fitted on the Pergola and brick and flint repairs made to the shelter; a new gate was installed and stone repairs were made to the Manor entrance.

With regard to the Clock Tower, work should commence on its repair after Pride. Works to the Chalet Café are complete and the container parked to keep tools safe has been removed.

New requests made by the FoPP included:

Leadership training for those who wish to head volunteer gardening groups; a request for the wooden posts on Lime Tree Walk to be repaired and replaced as needed; information requested regarding the Wild Flower Meadows

**City Parks agreed:**

- Leadership training to be organised. Carol Cole to follow up
- The wooden posts on Lime Tree Walk will be repaired and replaced in the autumn
- The Wild Flower Meadows will be grass seeded next year to give the soil a rest and re-seeded the following year

**4) Green Flag result**

Preston Park has again received a Green Flag Award. The judges noted that FoPP is very active and recommends that city Parks continues to work closely with us, and to provide more leadership training. The Rockery was particularly well received and noted as a particular credit to Preston Park. The judges were also impressed with the number of volunteer gardeners, demonstrating a keen public involvement.

**5) Pride**

This year's Pride preparations are intended to give more access to dog walkers and general park users. Last year's Social Impact awards to FoPP were designated to provide 5 new litter bins in the wooded area, and two picnic tables and benches near to the old bowling greens. Since then, City Parks has stated they will be unable to purchase the litter bins as City Clean has stated they will be unable to empty them. As yet, the picnic tables and benches have not been embedded into position.

**ACTION:**

- Carol Cole to speak to Pride about these delays and suggest moving the funding for litter bins to additional picnic tables and benches in the wild area next to the Coronation Garden
- Carol Cole will send details and maps regarding Pride set up to Clive Shepherd for inclusion in the next FoPP newsletter

**6) Request for event to mark the loss of one of the Preston Twins**

A member of the public has requested an event to commemorate the loss of one of the Preston Twin elm trees. It was suggested that a tree walk explaining the diversity of Preston Park tree life could be organised in either August or September ending at the old elm. Further to this a new tree could be planted.

**ACTION:**

- Carol Cole to contact tree specialists Peter Bourne and Alistair Peters to organise a tree walk
- Carol Cole to contact Alan Griffiths regarding a new tree

**7) Dates and forward planning**

The FoPP AGM will take place at St Peter's Church, Preston Village on 2 November. Kate Bradbury has also been invited to attend as a speaker. She is a wildlife author, specialising in bees. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/author/kate-bradbury/>

The Halloween Lantern Walk will take place on 26 October.

The wreath making event held at St Peter's church will take place on 7 December.

**ACTION:**

- Dimitri Mehandziski to contact the council to request permission for the Halloween Lantern Walk on 26 October
- Carol Cole to contact Keith Upton regarding the need for loud speakers needed for the Halloween event
- Halloween plans tbd.
- Wreath making plans tbd.

**8) De-brief from Andy Jeavons regarding volunteer gardening and future plans**

We are looking at plans to make the area of elms in the main park opposite the Rockery more attractive by planting either bulbs or wild flower seeds in the autumn.

The issue of the Dahlia Walk fencing is underway. The 45.72 cm/18 inches fence will keep dogs and children out of the flower beds without being obtrusive. Once fencing is in place the area will be cleared of any old or overgrown planting to make room for more colour, including dahlias. It is also envisaged that the area further along towards the ex-bowling greens will be replanted with herbaceous plants and new roses supported with metal posts to give the area more conformity and purpose.

The border on the other side of the tennis courts is to be reduced in size and replanted.

Preston Park still needs more volunteers to help with gardening. It was suggested to advertise in the Preston Pages, Viva magazine and in the FoPP newsletter.

It was suggested that hardier roses should replace those that are currently being trampled on by the public in the beds around the Rotunda Café.

**ACTION:**

- Clive Shepherd to organise advertising for more gardening volunteers

**9)** Clive Shepherd explained the uses of **Slack**, an app that makes it easier to share information between member groups. It is envisaged that it will make it easier for members to share and retain information that we might need to make the FoPP work more smoothly.

**ACTION:**

- Clive Shepherd to set up the app for the group

**AOB and next meeting**

Joe McNulty is in contact with Brighton & Hove City Council regarding our bid for a community grant. He will hear from them shortly if our request has been granted.

The next newsletter will be completed in the next few days.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10 September, at 6.30pm.