



Friends of Preston Park

Minutes of the Public meeting held Saturday 29th January 2011
Men' Bowls Pavilion, Preston Park

1. Welcome and introductions

Apologies: Paula Isaac

Present:

Committee, Duncan Blinkhorn, Linda Ayling, Fred Hards,

Additionally:

Garry Meyer - Park ranger

2. Minutes of Last Meeting –agreed, no matters arising.

3. Updates

i) Notice boards

Despite assurances, still no notice boards. They are on the way!

ii) Pétanque terrain

Progressing – slowly! The site has been measured up and estimates have been sought.

ii) Pride 2011

Dialogue is open. All agencies meeting to be held Tuesday 1st Feb.* The Pride committee have apparently asked for our views on where the barriers should be – if people wish to express views, they can do so via the Friends website. If the event goes ahead, we discussed the possibility of a donation towards, eg the Community Garden.

iv) Community Garden

Views requested on this. LA asked about vandalism to present Harvest plot – there has been none – very encouraging!

Duncan Blinkhorn of the Groundworks Trust talked about possibilities for a community garden, eg a space to meet, gather, sit, for people to congregate and allow people to STOP for a while without being a “customer”. Discussed the importance of “furniture” to bring people together – not just installing outwards facing benches. Use the space for a multiplicity of uses – and users – and doesn't have to be expensive. Very positive. Agreed need to work with Harvest. Duncan, John and Tony will put some ideas on paper and publish to Friends and via website to seek views as well as meet with Harvest to further develop the concept.

Action: Tony , Duncan, John

4 Hedge Laying

Garry informed the committee of the Hedge laying to start Weds. 16th February from 10am. along the side of the basketball courts / childrens' playground, to replicate previous ancient tree line, using traditional Sussex technique of management. Should

encourage more wildlife as grows / becomes more dense. Volunteers welcome – tools and protective clothing provided.

5 “Recruiting” more members

We may well have already found people to assist with marketing / events management in the pipeline – but many hands make light work and we would be grateful for all offers!

If anyone would like to be more actively involved in any specific project, please get in touch!

If you know any (younger) potential Friends, who would like experience working with a community / voluntary group, we would be more than happy to hear from you – we can provide references for your future CV too!

6 Future Events

- i) Easter Egg hunt – to be held on Sunday 24th April from 10.00 – 14.00.
Volunteers to assist Sue, Garry and Hazel, please!
- ii) Guided “Walks in the Park” –going ahead on Tues. 10th, Weds 18th and Thurs 26th May from 18.00 – 20.00. Details to follow – Thanks to Andy Jeavons / Alan Griffiths.
- iii) Summer fete / festival. New working title is the Prest Fest!
More details coming soon – ideas from the Community very gratefully received. This was one of the most popular ideas to emerge from last year’s questionnaire. If anyone has an idea for a stall / event / etc please get in touch and we can try to make your dreams come true.

7 Dates of next meetings

Dates : 12th April 7pm – Prest Fest ideas on agenda
 5th July 7pm – Prest Fest details / action planning
 13th September 7pm – AGM

8 AOB

Community Events / games

Duncan offered services of the Groundwork Trust’s “Spots vs Stripes” events for young people and children to be held in the park at various dates this Spring / Summer, eg skittles / tug of war / sack racing / volleyball etc
First date agreed is Fri 29th April from 3pm (bank holiday!).

* The All-Agencies meeting held on 1st Feb. agreed that Pride would go ahead as a ticketed, gated event this year.