

Friends of Preston Park Committee meeting

21 February at 6.30pm at the Park View

Present: Sue Shepherd, Clive Shepherd, Carol Cole, Sue Shanks, Siriol Hugh-Jones, Joe McNulty, Dimitri Mehandziski, Rose Jones, Garry Meyer

Apologies: Keith Upton

Sue began by welcoming Dimitri and Rose to the committee

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

There was no development on the repair of the noticeboards in the part. Joe said he would follow up.

Membership was not yet quite 500 so no change was required to the website.

Pride have given FOPP almost £2000 which had been passed on to Neil Brothers in the Council's Tree Department to spend on three new trees for Preston Park.

We have a further £1000 in our account to be spent on a marquee for the Halloween Lantern Walk.

Sue Shanks passed on thanks from the Surrenden Field Group for FOPP having held £500 that SFG had been given by Pride before SFG had opened its own bank account.

Our current bank balance is £2387. This includes the £1000 for the marquee but does not include £1250 promised from the Council. (Joe will follow up with Jonathan Best).

2. SOCIAL MEDIA

It was reported that Rose and Dimitri had created a Facebook page but that before it went live we needed to decide how open it should be.

It was agreed that the Facebook page would be public and would include a link inviting people to join the Friends of Preston Park. Clive will talk to Rose and Dimitri about coordinating the website and FB page.

3. EVENTS

Easter Egg event

This is planned for 10.30-2.30 on 1 April. Sue has sent information to Preston Pages, Seven Dials etc. and will also send something to the council press officer. The park events team at the Council have been notified.

We cannot use the pavilion but there will be gazebos available. Garry has one that is 4m x 4m. Tables will need to be transported from the chalet café to outside the pavilion. Committee members should be there from 9.30/9.45.

Joe, Rose and Garry are definitely available that day. Siriol, Carol and Sue Shanks may be. Dimitri, Sue Shepherd and Clive are not available.

Sue has booked two face painters for the day.

To do: posters

Quiz?

Let Garry know if we need power for anything. He will bring a generator.

Volunteers needed to judge drawing competition

Park Clean-up on 4 March 11-2pm

Garry reported there would be a Super Heroes costume competition and silent disco. Someone will be making a video of the event.

We can have a stall to promote FOPP and let people know about the Easter Egg event.

Rose, Dimitri and Siriol (and possibly Sue Shanks) to staff table in gazebo to be provided by Garry.

We'll need sign-up sheets with a data privacy statement, leaflets about Easter and our mission statement.

24 June – Preston Village Open Day

Preston Manor will be open, and volunteers will be leading tours of the walled garden. St Peter's will be celebrating the completion of the renovation work on the interior stencilling. Caroline Lucas has been invited.

Committee members agreed to give suggestions as to what the Friends could do to contribute to the day by 1 April.

4. SAND COURTS PROPOSAL

David Sweeney would like to use one of the disused bowling greens for beach volleyball. Members discussed issue of maintenance. It was decided that Sue would respond to David giving our approval for the scheme provided there was no visible advertising, no floodlighting and the fence around was kept at the existing height, and subject to the council giving its permission.

5. PHOTO COMPETITION

Members agreed there should be another photo competition. Categories tbc.

6. PARK QUIZ

Members agreed to a Park quiz based on information which Sue will display on notice boards and replace every month.

7. CORONATION GARDEN AND ROSE GARDEN

Sue reported that, despite the Rose Garden having beaten the Coronation Garden in the choice for which received funding, it had transpired there was some money available to spend on the Coronation Garden. Many of the shrubs are going to be removed to make it easier to maintain. The shelter will be refurbished and there will be some new planting that is wildlife-friendly. The Preston Twins are to be fenced off and a wildflower meadow created around them. Work will begin in the next couple of weeks.

We will in due course be asked to help recruit volunteers to maintain the Rose Garden. They will be given training.

8. PARKING IN THE PARK

This continues to be an issue. Garry explained that the company to which this had been outsourced can issue fixed disciplinary notices with a £100 fine.

Sue reported that the rapid response number if we see people parking in the park is 0345 6035469 (option 2).

There was some discussion about the disabled parking next to the Chalet Café and whether it would be possible to move it elsewhere. It was agreed that PP councillors would be invited to the next meeting to discuss this.

9. AOB

Dimitri asked about the proposal to put gym equipment in the park. It was reported that feedback from Hove Park had been extremely negative.

Garry asked for info about the tidy-up on 4 March to be sent to members.

The croquet lawn at the back of the Manor is to be improved by Pride. We are welcome to have a stall at Pride, in the VIP area or elsewhere.

Sue reported that the council do not intend to do anything to the pump house next to St Peter's Church other than to improve the fencing.

Responsibility for the Manor is to transfer from the council to the Museum Trust, though this has currently been postponed.

Pavilion in PP: signing of contract with lessor is "imminent". We will be told who this is once the agreement is signed.

The date of the next meeting was set at 11 April 6.30pm at the Park View.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.30pm