

Attending

J Thompson, D.R. Sproat, F Nelson, G Hardie, K.a Camithers, B Bain, S Brook, K Smith, M Hodgkinson, P. Herring, C Glover, D Cape, A Fiddler, C Bell, P Bell, D Pearson, J Pasley, E Cox

1) Apologies

B Scraggie, D Wilson, J Rickerby, S Ford

2) Matters Arising

Locking of the toilets

Love Parks Week. Three events are being planned and volunteers are needed to help out at all of them please. Moky Kids (dancing) is planned for Monday 23rd July- more details to come. A drumming workshop will be held on Thursday 26th July 11.30-3.30 pm. Pipes music is planned for the 28th July 10.00- 3.30 pm.

Other events. Two sessions of Moky Kids is planned on the 11th and 18th August. SF has also been looking into the Big Draw. There is some money to be spent on this, and is thinking of a two hour session with a community artist, Jessica Mills.

Newsletter. The newsletter has gone to the printers and will be printed in full colour in the 3-fold format. DS requested the help of volunteers in providing interesting material for the next edition.

Pond weed. DP explained that chemical removal of the green algae is not an option, and that it will need to be removed by mechanical means. Concern was raised as to whether it was harmful to dogs, but the weed is not poisonous. Over time, it should become less of a problem as the lake ecologically stabilises.

3) Jubilee Gala

This is to take place on the 4th June. DS has some games to bring (e.g. bat the rat, giant jenga, a treasure chest). He suggested that people pay a small fee to play and that small, simple prizes are provided e.g. sweets. It was agreed to keep it simple as the group already has lots of other events to plan.

4) Love Parks Week

There will be lots happening at Hammonds Ponds over the week, and JP listed a few of the additional events happening at the park.

5) Worrying trends of behaviours

Concern was raised over an increase in anti-social behaviour, and members were encouraged to make a note of any incidents and bring them to subsequent meetings. JP also encouraged members to report incidents to the police and to provide a physical description where possible. DS stated his concern over a return to what Hammonds Ponds was like in 1994/ 1995 when the group petitioned for improvements.

JP suggested the Friends explore a funding package to recruit a park/ activities officer. There was concern on how this would be sustainable. JP has also suggested to the Police that they use the cafe as a base to increase police presence in the park. JP and DP reaffirmed their own, and the Council's, commitment to the park.

6) AOB

- Fay has gathered letters and photos from her great great grandfather. DS has some money to make them into a history display in the cafe. Other volunteers/ CCC are encouraged to bring in any old photos they have too. JP asked whether money was available to make into a more permanent interpretation board, which it was agreed, would be less easy to damage. Currock Cllr encouraged the group to make an application to the Neighbourhood Forum.
- Friends welcome to join JP and DP on Monday.
- S Ford has confirmed public liability insurance from BTCV.
- Two cheques have been written, including one for Eden House and one for Help the Heroes.
- Concern was raised over the birds in the enclosure not getting the right diet. JP will do some research into it. Concern also raised over the cross-breeding of the doves.
- Currock Cllr wanted advice from the Friends regarding the gates following a recent accident. Before any action is taken, Phil Gray is awaiting information from legal team. Parents have requested that the two existing gates should be upgraded to the same standard as the yellow one.
- Friends believe that dog-fouling is at its worst in the park in the early morning and later evening. Dog wardens needs to be informed of this. A larger 'No Dogs' sign was also requested for the play area. However, the Council is planning to update the signs with input from children, and it wondered if the Friends could wait until then
- Concern raised over trees not being coppiced enough. Friends group could possibly tackle this. It should also go into the management plan.
- Far-side path is subsiding. It is very expensive to repair.

