Friends of Beechwood Park Meeting

Tuesday August 1st 2017 at 6:30pm, St Andrews Church Meeting Room

Present:

Cllr Lisa Lambert, Lesley Livsey (Secretary), Joan Tillotson (Treasurer), Helen Tillotson, John Gay, Michael Smith, Anne Robinson, Cllr Dan Sutherland, Pete Oddy, Janet Nicholl.

Apologies; Cllr Barry Collins, Tony King (Ward Coordinator OMI)

Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions.
   Lisa Lambert kindly stood in as Chairperson and welcomed everyone to the Group.

2. Last Minutes.
   These were accepted and agreed.

3. Park Issues/Resident’s Feedback
   - Numerous issues have been recorded in relation to unsocial behaviour and fires within the park. Police are aware of the incidents and it seems these issues are being recorded in other areas. Councillors are trying to engage with Youth Groups so a positive move is being made.
   - Following a debate about what, as a park, we could change, it was decided we would remove the picnic bench and bin by the upper pond. The bench is used as a meeting place and is out of immediate sight so it was thought removing this could make a difference. The bin is continually vandalised and thrown into the pond. It was agreed to initially relocate the bench and reassess in six months.
   - A copy of these minutes and a cover letter are to be sent to Trinity Academy to invite a representative of the school to attend the next meeting.
   - The lights at the entrance need changing to LED’s. There is an ongoing Council wide programme to change all lights to LED in Calderdale.

   Update: Following a walk through the park to discuss changes it seemed the bench and bin were in disrepair and the picnic bench would need a new table, it was agreed to remove them completely.

4. Funding secured for park improvements.
   - We are to meet in the park on Sunday to look at where we need the improvements and supply a list of these to Pete. We have asked for two new benches and two new bins. Hardcore is required on a couple of paths and a new stepped path is to be laid in the middle of the park by the football pitches. A basic
diagram was emailed to the Council staff and attached into a Facebook post, so Park users are aware of the improvements.

- Tesco’s would like to assist in the tree planting in November.
- £50 was raised from the mini dog show at the Picnic in the Park event.

5. Feedback of Community Event
We are still waiting on Liz Broadley’s update report regarding the Picnic in the Park event, however from the turnout and general feedback it seems it was an exceptionally good day. Liz is going to hold a coffee and cake morning to discuss the responses from the various organisations.

6. Volunteer Day
The changing rooms are now to be demolished.  
A volunteer day for general works will be arranged for November time though. We will arrange a date at the next meeting.  
It is very gratifying to see how park users keep the park clean and tidy. It is much appreciated.

7. Any Other Business.
Council update from Dan Sutherland: Illingworth Sports and Social Club has had numerous break-ins at the clubhouse, many children, teenagers and adults use this club and it would be a shame to lose it, so the Council have become involved and assisted with funding for security, business planning and long-term plans. They are also looking at using the rugby pitch at Tar Hill again, and at Beechwood Close for changing rooms in the interim.  
John Gay was given the ‘Safer, Greener, Cleaner’ award for the next three months, as John regularly maintains the park and surrounding environment.

Next Meeting Dates: (to be confirmed with the Church)
6:30pm Tuesday November 7th 2017  
6:30pm Tuesday February 6th 2018  
6:30pm Tuesday May 8th 2018  
6:30pm Tuesday August 7th 2018

All at St Andrew’s Church, Beechwood Road.