

## Friends of Rhyddings Park

Minutes of the meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> February 09

**Minutes of the last meeting** – approved by all

**Committee business** – Alan Baxendale has been co-opted to the committee

**Treasurer's Report** – Current balance of accounts is £11,068.40 but this is mostly project money for the bird box project. It also includes the donation from Oswaldtwistle Mills of £250 for the goat shed and £675 which is the first instalment of the Calendar 2010 project money.

A letter of thanks needs to be sent to Oswaldtwistle Mills (**GK to draft, NM to sign**)

**Bird box project** – Julie Miles attended the meeting to explain how the project was progressing. She has worked with three schools on developing designs for bird boxes and has one further session with each school. She showed the work that has been done so far. Valley Bird Boxes have been approached to make the basic designs. It is hoped for installation by the end of March.

**Parks for People bid** – generally people are unhappy with Capita and the quality of their work on this project. Peter suggested that we let Memorial Park pursue funding down this route and we concentrate on fund raising in other ways. The council will commit some monies in the budget to do the drains and paths. A photo has been taken of the damage caused by water pouring over the wall in Park Lane, Neil has already sent it to LCC but Peter requested it was sent to him (**NM to action**).

A discussion then ensued about priority work for the park.

Drains and paths were identified as the main priority.

Top formal gardens (a funding bid has been submitted to get equipment so that the Friends of Group can develop some of this work ourselves).

Fold down bollard at the top to stop people driving in (only council officers would have the key). It was commented on the way some people (including council officers) drive around the park

Pruning trees – some work has been done but more is needed in accordance with the tree management plan.

Old play area and old tennis courts – decisions need making as to how these areas will be used.

MUGA – awaiting the outcome of the funding bid.

Benches/furniture/bins – to see if we can raise funding/sponsorship locally for these elements.

Bowling green drainage – Gayle to investigate any funding opportunities for the bowling area.

Public Toilets – these would be good to have

Coach house – could this be turned into an education centre?

Lighting – floodlit bowling green

Proper planting with more colour – Peter offered to investigate whether planting tubs and hanging baskets could be added near the entrances.

**New play area** – The council has been awarded some funding to install a new play area aimed at 8 – 12year olds. It is hoped that equipment will be placed in the wooded area about the current play area.

**MUGA bid** – we should hear in early March whether we have been successful.

**Pets Corner** – Signage still to be installed (**NM to action**)

Aviary has now been installed, thanks to Area Council – it's quite large so we may need more budgies to fill it.

Vet is due to do a routine visit soon.

Some chickens were taken by the fox. More chickens have been donated, along with some rabbits and the fences have been secured more to protect against the fox.

Craig Horabin has agreed to provide 5 new feeders/drinkers.

**Bowling issues** – Temporary repair work is being done. The season is due to start the week before Easter. Drainage, steps and boggy areas on the green were identified as priorities.

**Policing issues** – It was suggested that a representative attend the next PACT meeting

**CCTV** – any day now – due to be installed next week but not plugged in for a while.

**Event** – there will be another Party in the Park this year – to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. HBC have funded the event as part of their plan to encourage people to be green and stay within the area on bank holidays rather than drive to the coast. More details soon – Gayle co-ordinating the event on behalf of HBC.

**Park theme** – It was agreed that we should try to identify a 'theme' for the park. Neil suggested that it should be a Healthy Park and that ultimately we should prepare walks and install Adult exercise equipment.

**Website** – this is now up and running [www.rhyddingspark.co.uk](http://www.rhyddingspark.co.uk) – anything anyone wants to add to it i.e. times of bowling, pictures etc – should send to Gayle [info@gayleknight.co.uk](mailto:info@gayleknight.co.uk)

**AOB**

Caretaker – trying to co-ordinate with Council to get him in the park for longer each week.

Capital budget will be set by Council in a fortnight's time – some funding to be proposed for some of the essential maintenance work.

Changes to Area Council in the future could change caretakers hours.

Peter offered £100 to bowlers to support the club.

Extra dog bin was requested at the entrance to Malvern St – Craig has already said there are enough in the park but could consider moving some of them around.

**Date and time of next meeting** - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 09

**7.00pm** at Hippings Vale Community Centre