

PRIORY PARK FRIENDS' GROUP

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting



Held: Thursday 4th June 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Venue: St Neots Football Pavilion, Love's Farm, St Neots

Present: Ian Jackson (Acting Chair) Francisca Shaw + 29 members
Anna van der Hart Ian Toye
Ron Jones Carol Hurrell

Apologies for Absence: Rob Murray, Barry Chapman, Ian Gardiner, Alison Pearson, Bruce and Alice Elam and John and Leslie Turner.

1. Introduction

Ian Jackson, as acting Chairman, introduced the Committee. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially the guest speaker for the evening, local historian Peter Ibbett.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the last AGM held on 21st May 2014, which have been on the website, were approved as a correct copy and signed. Proposer Richard van der Hart, seconded by Peter Hurrell.

3. Chairman's Report for the Previous Year

- Ian Jackson, as acting Chairman, reported on the past year. After complaints from the Committee, Huntingdonshire District Council had supplied some new litter bins, replacing those that had rusted through. Last Autumn 60 trees were received, free of charge, from the Woodland Trust. These were planted along the Huntingdon Road (western) boundary of the Park.

7 standard trees were also purchased and planted, including 2 Indian Chestnuts. One of these was paid for by Mrs Pru Gardiner in memory of her husband and was subsequently stolen from the Priory Hill side. The Police were informed as this was not the first theft of trees from the Park.

The Committee will purchase another in the Autumn to replace it and plant it in another spot. Twelve smaller trees have been potted up and will be planted out in the Autumn, together with 60 more small trees to be supplied by the Woodland Trust, free of charge.

Peter Walker from the Gardening Club kindly gave up some time to name some of the more unusual species of tree in the Park so that they can be tagged. He found 2 very old Oriental Planes and these have been tagged.

- The Waitrose charity token scheme was entered last October and a cheque for £280 gratefully received. This money may be put towards a new bench.

- The Annual Litter Pick, which was held on 21st March, was very well attended and over thirty bags of rubbish collected. Ian Toye is continuing the work of wood-chipping in the eastern spinney despite the difficulty of obtaining good quality woodchip.
- As far as the perimeter and surroundings of the Park is concerned, it was good to learn that plans are being drawn up for a speed restriction of 30 mph on Huntingdon Road together with a safety crossing. Also, that the old Technical College site is to be used for educational purposes again and not for housing.
- Ian thanked Ron Jones, the web page manager, for keeping it updated with latest news and photographs. He also thanked the Committee for their work over the past year and Accountant, Colin Anderson, who kindly audited the accounts free of charge. He also thanked St Neots Football Club for use of the facilities again, free of charge.

4. Treasurer's Report

Francisca Shaw reported that the bank balance at the end of the financial year was £917.15. The Town Council had given a grant of £500 and Waitrose £280 from the charity token scheme.

Several large trees had been purchased from Riverlane Nurseries at a cost of £356.45. The accounts, audited by Colin Anderson, were accepted by the meeting and available to look at.

5. Election of the Committee

As there were no new nominations it was agreed to vote en bloc. The Committee was re-elected, proposer Chris Lowe, seconder David Smith.

6. Any Other Business

Kris Florkiewicz reported that the small oak near the Coronation Bench, had died. Also, the crocuses planted there had been cut back too early by HDC mowers.

Several swarms of bees had settled on a walnut tree in the Park and Francisca as Beekeeper had removed them. Richard van der Hart gave a vote of thanks to the Committee.

Meeting ended at 8.00 p.m. and was followed by a most interesting talk on "The History of Priory Park and the Rowley Family" by Peter Ibbett.