

The 'find of the day' was a locked money tin. Unfortunately, when opened it was empty, so there are no additional funds to add to the pot!

- **Hi Vis Vests** - These have now been purchased, worn and admired for the first time at the litter pick and thought to be a worthwhile investment as they both defined Committee members and also actively advertised the group. (an example vest was on display at the AGM).
- **Wood-chipping** – A wood-chipping event was carried out in July 2017 and the chippings were distributed in the lower half of the top section in the wooded area adjacent to the school. The group would continue with this project as and when chippings become available.
- **Bird Boxes** - Purchased 10 boxes which have been put up in the wooded area adjacent to the school. The intention is to hopefully continue with this project later in the year in the area adjacent to Huntingdon Road.
- **Forest School** - The Forest School had a very successful year and were included in the bid for the Green Flag Award. They had also become the only school in Cambridgeshire to be officially recognised by the Forest School Association as a Forest School Provider. Linda and Trisha are congratulated for all their hard work.
- **Notice Board** - The long-awaited Rowley Road notice board has been erected and will be used solely by the Group to post relevant information. HDC kindly gifted the board and we only incurred costs for the installation.
- **Drug Problem** - There had been very few sightings in recent months, however we will continue to be vigilant and report any sightings to the authorities.
- **Wild Flower Planting** - The ground preparation for the wild flowers around the trees next to the Priory Hill gate area had already started and was generating a considerable amount of interest from the public. The shoots are already coming through. HDC have already done similar projects on other parklands and the results have been spectacular and it's hoped the same can be generated in our park.
- **Wild Life** - Muntjac's had been spotted at the Rowley Road and was really pleased to see a member post a picture of one on our Facebook page.

A black squirrel had also been spotted in the park in the area adjacent to Priory Hill. We have included an article in the recent newsletter giving a brief history of their origin.

4. Treasurer's Report

Francisca Shaw reported that the accounts had been audited and that the bank balance at the end of the financial year was £2860.90. The Group had received a significant donation again this year of £1200.00 from St Neots Town Council.

Francisca informed the meeting that she had decided to stand down as Treasurer having been a founding member of the group when it was first formed in 2010.

On behalf of the Committee and all the members, Ian thanked Francisca for all her hard work, time and support in getting it to the established group it is today. She will be sorely missed, and Ian wished her on behalf of everyone, all the best for the future. Ian's sentiments were echoed by all present at the meeting.

5. Election of the Committee

The following committee roles were advertised to all members of PPFG and applications were processed in line with the groups election policy.

The Committee shall consist of five elected members - Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and two additional non-specific members: -

- Chairman
 - Ian Toye
 - Nominated by Mark Lewis, seconded by Maureen Smith
- Secretary
 - Helen Lewis
 - Nominated by Liz Murray, seconded by David Smith
- Treasurer
 - Mark Lewis who currently manages PPFG social media accounts (website, Facebook, Instagram, and circulation of information to members) agreed to step up and act as Treasurer for this year as none of the existing members wished to take on the role. Hopefully next year a designated Treasurer could be appointed and allow Mark to continue with promoting the Group via social media.
 - Nominated by Nick Tracken, seconded by Francisca Shaw
- Committee
 - Nick Tracken – who provides the editorials for the newsletters and manages the bird box projects.
 - Nominated by Ron Smith, seconded by Maureen Smith
- Committee
 - David Jasper – who is a Scout Leader and rallies the scouts providing a tremendous amount of support at the litter picking events.
 - Nominated by Mark Lewis, seconded by Francisca Shaw

6. Updates and Future Planning

Ian addressed the meeting and said that the Committee were mindful that a significant amount of money was available for park projects and the Committee had via the quarterly newsletters asked members if they had any suggestions on how to spend the available funds.

Apart from reinstating the toilets which isn't something we could fund and the installation of additional benches, the Committee hadn't received any other suggestions.

Ian stated that the Committee had been looking at innovative ways in which the money could be spent and suggested a feasibility study for the creation of a numbered nature trail around the park similar to the one around Paxton Pits. The Committee considered it to be a worthwhile exercise as it would raise the profile of the group. This permanent fixture would appeal to all age groups and could potentially increase the number of visitors to the park.

Ian then invited Helen to explain to the members how the Committee envisaged the trail would work and what works had been carried out to date and what still needed to be done.

Helen informed the members that it was very apparent that other than the play areas which can be found in any park, there wasn't anything significant in the park which could be considered both educational and entertaining. As the park is widely used by dog walkers, families, friends and numerous sports clubs or groups with spectators.

It is envisaged that the introduction of a numbered nature trail would encourage those with small children or bored spectators to undertake a pleasant guided walk through Priory Park.

- The trail would consist of a walk around the park with numbered marker posts located at points of interest i.e. particular trees, the velodrome, a section of wooded area, owl boxes, etc.
- The Committee were open to any suggestions regarding points of interest that the members might have which could be included.
- Linda, Helen and Janet Toye had walked around the park to reference points of interest and plot a preliminary trail which would be shared with members in the near future.
- To advertise it, it was suggested that a notice board with a map depicting the post locations/points of interest would be erected near the main car park.
- The trail would be paperless (to keep costs down), participants could if they wished download a paper version of the trail via Groups/HDC's website.
- It was hoped that HDC would contribute towards the costs as it's an improvement to the existing facilities in the park which is one of the key criteria for the Green Flag award.
- Action Plan: -
 - Devise a business plan and meet with HDC as the trail would of course be subject to HDC approval.
 - Obtain costings for purchase of: -
 - wooden posts, engraving numbers (email members and see if anyone could do this,
 - installation of posts
 - designing and printing a map
 - costs for purchasing, and installation of a notice board

The members agreed that the nature trail was a great idea and should be pursued.

Philip Shaw asked the Committee to consider using some of the funds available to site a bench in a shaded location.

7. Any Other Business

Commuter parking – HDC had approached the Committee for supporting in carrying out a survey of the Huntingdon Road car park to ascertain whether it was being used by commuters. The committee agreed to do this and would collect data on the car parked at set times in the morning and afternoon. The survey was abandoned after two days due to verbal abuse from the public.