Meriden PARISH COUNCIL
the historic centre of England

FRIENDS OF MERIDEN POOL MEETING 12-11-19

Present: Chris Barr, Cllr Rosie Weaver, Carol Stafford, Peter Moss and Barbara Bland.

No apologies received.

1. Where are we now?

1.1 Update from Ben Wood re. new hedging Arden Tree Scheme

BB advised she had received emails from Ben Wood regarding a visit he had made to the Pool and his disappointment in the maintenance the Friends Group had given to the new hedge planted as part of the Arden Tree Scheme. BB explained the lack of tools available to the Friends and also the need for spraying to contain weed and nettle growing into the hedge. Unbeknown to the Friends Group Ben Wood attended site in his own time as a volunteer and weeded in between the newly planted hedge as part of the conditions placed upon securing a successful bid for free hedge and trees from the Arden Tree Scheme in 2018. The Friends Group is hugely appreciative of Ben's efforts and very grateful for his ongoing support. An email of thanks has been sent to Ben.

2. Maintenance

2.1 Frequency & what is included?

BB had not requested quotations from parish council contractors as yet. This will be done for next meeting. It was agreed that increased cutting/maintenance was required.

Action: CB to look into current programme of works to see if any improvements may be made.

2.2 Bins

The bins continue to be emptied as and when which remains "hit and miss" and not always tied in with village green bins. CB to take the issue back to Amey and report at next meeting. It was agreed that bin emptying should be daily to remove risk of wildfowl eating plastic/bags or worse.

Action: CB to speak to Amey.

3. Signage

3.1 Boating/Fishing

The newly erected signage has received negative comments. Discussion agreed removal of signage from current site.

Action: CB to organise with Rangers/Public Realm.

3.2 Wildfowl Feeding

CS reported an improvement of appropriate foods for wildfowl feeding with more seeds/grain/brown bread and less white bread including sandwiches and food waste, which attracted rats. A positive outcome to the many signs and reminders to visitors to keep the wildfowl healthy.

Action: Friends to continue monitoring and reporting and incidents of food waste being used as "bird food".

4. Friends/Volunteers

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Friends reported the difficulty in retaining volunteers; 8 have dwindled to 2 supported by the parish council and SMBC. CS to place request on Facebook for more residents to get involved. Volunteers required to be posted on social media sites along with school newsletter by Friends Group (c/o RW 15/11/19). CB wondered if Corley Environmentalists may get involved; an enquiry to be made by the Group.
Action: RW school newsletter; CS Facebook and social media; CB Corley Environmentalists.

5. Future Vision
More volunteers required to sustain the good work to date of the Friends Group. At the next meeting a brain storm to identify what is required for Spring/Summer 2020 including more seating.
Action: ALL

6. Funding
CB has drafted a letter to local businesses requesting their support for purchase/donation of hand tools. Tools to be stored at Sports Park. CB to organise sending letters and/or doing face to face drop ins to local businesses.
Action: CB

7. Date of Next Meeting
To be arranged for January 2020.

8. Any Other Business
CS and PM raised their concerns at pool levels having dropped and asked if SMBC are aware of this. CB replied that SMBC have the plate out at the moment due to increased rain levels and trying to manage the surface water run off to avoid the flooding experienced in 2013. The situation is being monitored and checks being made.
Action: SMBC

The meeting closed at 16.15.