**MINUTES**

**MEETING FRIENDS OF SCHOLES PARK**

**Thursday 23rd May 8pm**

Venue: GATLEY ELM ROAD URC CHURCH HALLS

1. Welcome and Introductions
	1. Tina Hilton from Gatley Allotments and GVP
	2. John Bollard from Gatley Carrs. Currently wildlife officer (was previously the chair)
	3. Tracey Payton – Gatley Primary, Kingsway Governor
	4. Phil Ryan – Lum Head Primary
	5. Gary Wade – Gatley URC
	6. Bridget Hanley – Chair
	7. Jo Outterside – Secretary
2. Apologies
	1. Simon Goldthorpe - Treasurer
3. **Children’s craft/consultation stalls**. Stall held at Gatley sports day. FOSP were pleased to support the event and it was a good consultation opportunity with a surge in numbers joining the facebook group after the event. Only a small amount of income was made from charging £1 for the children’s activities and a lost was made. However we will repeat the stall at the Gatley Festival Teddy Bears Picnic where we hope to break even on items bought, which we can reuse again for future events. **Action BH&JO**
4. **Community Planting Area**
	1. Successful Ward Flexibility Fund Application £1000
	2. Jacky Budd, Greenspace Project Officer has advised we can do the work under working day applications. However, for the raised beds and hard standing area we need to use a contractor with public liability insurance and will require a risk assessment and method statement.
	3. Jo has contacted several local land scape gardeners. Only one has currently agreed to potentially do the work (Riks Garden Fencing and Landscaping Ltd) and has quoted £2340 inc VAT.
	4. Need to raise the additional funds. Applications to made to potentially funding listed below. **Action JO**
	5. Planned working days – draft applications made to council. For work day around w.c. 17th June with Kingsway students. This can be used to clear area for raised beds, remove weeds, plant some wild flower seeds and trees. May tie in with keep Briton Tidy day and include litter pick. Need to make final arrangements with Kingsway. Then contractors in install raised beds and hard standing area end of June (pending funding and contractor availability). Then children’s planting activities and community activities 5&6th July. Programme at risk of delay. **Action JO**
	6. John and Tina kindly agreed to advise on planting through the Allotment Society. It may only be appropriate to plant trees in November. Will need to consider watering requirements and may need to install a water butt. May be restricted on where we buy plants from by council.
	7. The primary schools have received some plant growing kits. We may want to use the plants grown to put in the community planters, but likely the planters will be installed too late. Alternatively, the plants will be used around the schools.
5. **Children’s Trail**
	1. Forever Manchester CDL application for £1000 pending
	2. Quote from wood craft contractor around £4000.
	3. Continuing to apply for additional funding. **Action BH**
	4. Local artist group who meet at Gatley Hill have agreed to be involved in an art activity in the park which we can tie in with opening the trail
	5. Jo and Bridgette are meeting John Roland – Wildlife and Countryside officer Weds next week. **Action BH&JO**
6. **Control of Dogs** – Feedback from Jacky Budd, Richard Booker, Playgrounds Officer. Please see the councils Public control order which sets out the rules for control of dogs in parks. This includes no dogs in children’s play areas (Scholes Park listed) and no dogs in enclosed sports areas (Scholes Park running track is not included in the list of but Richard Booker has confirmed this is an oversight and this will be included). Also, the public are required to clear up their dogs and one person cannot exercise more than 4 dogs at once. <https://assets.ctfassets.net/ii3xdrqc6nfw/2sQuuz5DF6IkqeGucwc8ys/cfb018b61ca4c22e619534d655783a3c/Crime_-_PSPO_to_promote_responsible_dog_ownership.pdf>

The public can report infringements of this PSPO via the dog warden dog.warden@stockport.gov.uk 0161 474 4207. We will post this information on the FOSP facebook page. **Action JO**

1. **Long term plans for running track**. We have the quotes for refurbishment of the track approx. £10k which will need to be repeated each year. We are looking for a consortium of organisations who would be willing to contribute to make up this money each year. Friends of Scholes park will ask Gatley Primary School, Lum Head Primary School, Kingsway School and Gatley VP if they would be willing to contribute. Feedback from Richard Booker at the council is that the council will not replace the gate into the playing field as it the council’s policy to not fully enclose sports areas as it encourages the exercising of dogs in the area. He has agreed to reinstate the sign which states dogs cannot be exercised on the area.
2. **Long term plans for children’s play park**. It our long term aim to get new equipment for the play area when the opportunity arises (e.g. a new play equipment local or national funding scheme) or through a big scale funding application. The Richard Booker from the council has fed back to us that they are unlikely to invest in new equipment at the moment due to high vandalism rate. Our strategy is therefore to increase the use and popularity of the park to hopefully reduce vandalism and increase the changes of new equipment being installed in the long term. The council have also fed back that they do not currently install new fences to fence off play areas as they have found this encourages people to exercise their dogs in the area. However Richard Booker has said that his plan is to put in an additional access gate to Scholes Fields, which does not lead directly onto the play area for use by dog walkers. He will then put up a sign on the existing children’s play park entrance stating that dogs cannot be exercised in the play park area. We would support this.
3. **Request for CCTV at railway bridge entrance to the park.** Following some incidents of mugging of school children at this location, Kingsway School want to install CCTV at this location and have asked FOSP for support. We would certainly support and welcome this. Richard Booker from the council has fed back that he will discuss the request with the Stockport Council community officer, who liaises with the Police and Schools. He stated that the council get a lot of CCTV requests which they are unlikely to be able to fund. Kingsway have stated they may fund raise for this.
4. **Funding application opportunities**
	1. Manchester airport (for information signs)
	2. Gatley URC Dudley Fund and Jack Jones Fund. Jo to apply to URC.
	3. Stockport Homes Community Fund
	4. Wooden Spoon Grants
	5. Running Bee Grant
	6. Tesco bags for Life
	7. Gatley VP – Festival committee
	8. Rowlinson – Have previously said they would help on the community planting project but have stopped responding to emails. Committee will contact them again them.
5. **Any Other Business**
	1. Facebook page now over 100 members
	2. Setting up email/website – plan for committee members to do this. Will ask for volunteers on facebook group to help. **Action JO**
	3. Gary offered to promote the Friends of Scholes Park on the Gatley dog walkers facebook group (300+ members) **Action GW**
	4. Suggestion for FOSP to contact local media for publicity. Will do for next event/installation in the park.
	5. Suggestion to produce an information leaflet. Will consider.
	6. BBQ are in the park similar to Wilmslow Carrs to be considered in the future.
	7. John updated the group on the plans of SMART (South Manchester Archaeological Trust). Near Gatley Hill House there is an are of a former Victorian Farm, Medieval Farm and Neolithic area. They have a lottery fund application for a two week excavation. Janice Adams has contacted Gatley Primary and Lum Head to ask if they want to be involved. Trial pits are planned for 23rd June.
	8. Next FOSP meeting – Provisional date Tuesday 16th July