**Minutes**

**MEETING FRIENDS OF SCHOLES PARK**

**25th July 8pm**

Venue: GATLEY ELM ROAD URC CHURCH HALLS

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Present: Bridget Hanley (Chair), Jo Outterside (Secretary), Clare Phethean, Alex Masidlover

Apologies received from Simon Goldthorpe (Treasurer), Keith Halloway (Councillor), James Tudsbury (website expert), Gatley Primary, Lum Head and Kingsway representatives.

1. **Actions from Last Meeting**. Reviewed.
2. **Accounts**. Accounts sent by Simon Goldthorpe reviewed. A total of £1,300 received in grants this year plus £901.78 due from Stockport homes specifically for benches. The plan is to spend this on the community planting area. Beds are being donated and installed by contractors Rowlinson. Additional funding required for bench and bench install, plants, trees, hard standing area around beds. May also be funds remaining for signs.

£200 was spent on resources for the two stalls at Gatley Festival and Gatley sports day (materials and equipment remaining to use again). £248 were spent on plants and trees for the Kingsways task day.

1. **Community Planting Area**
   1. Review of drawing of proposal. Requirement to update following council feedback **Action Simon**
   2. Neighbours Consultation. Complete. Letter posted through the door of 20 nearest neighbours. Only one email back supporting the plan.
   3. Feedback from the council at meeting 24/07/19. Jo and Bridget met with Jacky Budd and Richard Booker from Stockport council on 24/07/19 to go through the community planter area plans.
      1. They support the plan and think it is possible for us to do the work autumn this year.
      2. They were happy with the consultation but fed back a simple yes or no answer normally gets at better response, as does consultation directly from the council which they would be willing to do for us another time.
      3. They want us to change the location of the planters. The current location is within vegetation and the three planters are too close together to allow a mower in between. We agreed to change the location of the planters to adjacent to the path from the entrance gate to the central seating area, with 3.5m clearance between planters. A hard standing area is also required around the beds to enable the grass to be cut up the edge of the beds. The council have a standard specification for the planters which they will provide and we will adhere to.
      4. The two benches we have funding for from Stockport homes are acceptable, but the council would prefer a totally fire proof bench. They suggested a circular bench with a tree in middle. We agreed this could be installed in the middle of the existing seating area and the council would prepare the ground and remove the fire damaged seating there currently.
      5. We discussed painting the rocks as an art installation. Unfortunately, as they are in a play area they are governed by play equipment rules. If a child slipped on them we would be liable. Therefore, we will have to abandon the plan to paint the rocks.
      6. Gatley Primary have been in talks with the council on improving the pathway from the park near to the entrance to the school. Discuss with Gatley Primary at next meeting **Action Jo**
      7. The council are planning on installing an additional entrance to the park for dog walkers to enable the dog exclusion in the play area to be better in forced. They couldn’t give a firm timescale.
   4. Funding. We are going to request an increase in funds from Stockport Homes to cover the new £1200 cost of the benches and £400 installation. **Action Bridget.** If they cannot increase the funds we will need to fund from any surplus in the FOSP acount or seek more funding.
   5. Commitment for work by Contractors Rawlinson. Rowlinson have kindly offered to build and install the planters. They have provided RAMS and proof of public liability insurance required by the council. We need to get the standard specification from the council to check the design of planters is ok. Also check if Rowlinson are willing to install hard standing area. If not arrange and pay for council to do this. Then agree the date for installation and do final task day application with the council for this date. **Action Jo and Simon**
2. Feedback from community stalls over the summer. Generally agreed these went well and are a good way to publicise the work of FOSP. We plan to do similar stalls at Gatley Festival and Sports day next year. New idea for the sports day would be for FOSP to hold, or support with an activity in Scholes such as a cross county race or orienteering. Will follow up with Alex when they begin sports day plans in November. **Action Jo and Alex**
3. Feedback on recent community task days. Kingsway school and Gatley 1st Rainbows. Agreed these went well. Will arrange more around planting up the community planters, planting trees in the autumn. **Action Jo and Bridget**
4. Children’s Trail. On hold.
5. Woodland Improvements. Plan to hold a task day around identifying trees and pruning etc next year. **Action Bridget**
6. Plans for running track. Discussed particularly with Alex as the leader of the Gatley Runners group. Suggested applying to the Airport fund for maintenance as they fund maintenance activities as well as capital. Plan in September to write a letter to schools and any other relevant groups to determine how much they would be willing to contribute to maintenance. **Action Jo.** Need to contact all the sports groups which use the running track and fields. Van request contact information from the council. **Action Clare.**
7. Website Progress. James Tudsbury is still kindly working o this.
8. Any Other Business
   1. Next FOSP meeting. Provisional date 01/10/19
   2. Should we be considering extra protection for the park from development. E.g. Fields in Trust. **Discuss at next meeting**
   3. Consider local supermarkets for funding. E.g. token scheme at Waitrose or John Lewis. **Jo to look into / apply**
   4. General feedback that the committee should be more transparent about what we do and discuss with the council between meetings. Feedback taken on board. Suggestion to use a tracking tool for actions. E.g. GVP use “slack”. Can look into this. **Action Jo**