**MINUTES**

**MEETING AND AGM FRIENDS OF SCHOLES PARK**

**10th Feb 6.30pm**

Venue: GATLEY ELM ROAD URC CHURCH HALLS

1. **Attendees**

Bridget Hanley, Simon Goldthorpe, Jo Outterside, John Pollard, Tracey Payton, Alison Jones, Helen Wilkinson

1. **Apologies**

Gary Wade, Keith Holloway

1. **AGM nominations and votes for members to the committee.**

No new volunteers for committee members either at the meeting or before following a request via email and to the Facebook group. Current committee members offered to continue in their current positions, and this was supported by all at the meeting.

Bridget Hanley – Chair Person

Simon Goldthorpe – Treasurer

Jo Outterside - Secretary

1. **Actions from last meeting**
   1. Make application to Shires Community Fund JO – Complete. See further actions below
   2. Make application to Stockport Hydro JO – Complete. See further actions below
   3. Make application to Government Pocket Parks Fund for Boat unit JO and Richard Booker – Complete
   4. Jacky Budd and Richard Booker from the council to feedback on an approach for the running track refurbishment after speaking to Jane Bardsley and the Estates Team and checking the Playing Pitch Strategy for next year – Complete. See further actions below
   5. Run plans for history trial link to archaeological dig past council – BH & JO – Complete. Council officers are supportive.
   6. FOSP trail race or orienteering. JO to follow up with Clare Forest and Alex Masidlover – Outstanding. **JO to contact Clare Forester and Alex Masidlover to check the sports day is going ahead and to organise trail race. If sports day is not going ahead, we will consider a stand alone race.**
   7. Poor condition of the path on the entrance to the park from the path at the side of Gatley primary. KH to raise with the Council – Action outstanding. **SG to also follow up with council and look into getting the path resurfaced, and/or hedges cut back using the Community Payback Scheme**
2. **Accounts**

SG referred to annual accounts presented in December. Available on request.

1. **New Play Equipment in Play Area**
   1. Application made to Manchester Airport Community Fund for Seesaw in play area was successful. Will be installed in next 3 months
   2. Application made to Government Pocket Parks Fund for around £18,000 for toddler climbing frame boat unit. Due to hear back Feb 20
   3. Application made to Shires Community Fund for £1500 towards park information sign. Have not yet heard back. **JO contact the Cheadle Area Committee and explain that we have not been successful in getting the £500 from Stockport Hydro and to ask if we can increase the value of our application to cover the full cost of the sign.**
   4. Application made to Stockport Hydro for £500 towards park information sign. They have responded that we have been successful, and they will give us a grant for £200 but for plants rather than for funding towards the sign. **FOSP have been invited to a presentation of the cheque on Friday 13th March 2pm at the Hydro site. JO to attend.**
2. **Running Track improvements.**
3. We have a quote to refurbish track £9870, remove and fell trees £6680, grind stumps £2450. Then annual maintenance £2,800
4. Asked for feedback from the council on their long term plans as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy. Richard Booker emailed a reply on 10/02/2020 stating that they are in the final stages of putting together the playing pitch strategy. They don’t currently have available funds for the track refurbishment and ongoing maintenance. They will review again in April when the budgets are set.
5. Have applied to Police payback scheme for £1000 towards. Still to hear back.
6. Due to the high cost and the need for ongoing maintenance we are unlikely to be able to fund this through community/charity funding applications.
7. Gatley Primary have stated they are willing to fund the track refurbishment and the track annual maintenance. They have contacted the council and the council stated they wanted to discuss through liaison with the Friends of Scholes Park Group.
8. **JO to set up a meeting with the Council and all interested parties including Gatley Primary, Kingsway, Lum Head, Gatley Runners etc to have an open discussion about how to fund the refurbishment of the running track and how to ensure there is access for all and to check any implications of the ownership of the area and future development.**
9. **TP to contact Gatley Allotments to see if they have any volunteers who would be willing to prune/thin the trees overhanging the tack.**
10. **Archaeology Society Plans**
    1. Archaeology Society still planning dig July 20 but issue with using Gatley Hill House as base as may be closed for council repairs
    2. We have provided them with a quote for a history trial (6 information posts and leaflets with trail map) which they are including in bid
    3. Society have asked FOSP to provide a letter of support which we will do. **JO to write letter of support**
11. **Planned activities in the park**
    1. Children identifying trees activity. Measuring around trees to ascertain the age, leaf identification chart. JP has provided the information sheets used at Gatley Carrs. We need tape measures and it was suggested to get some free ones from Ikea. Agreed to hold this event in June 2020. **Action all members to pick up tape measures if they go to Ikea. JO to set date and invite JP to attend, invite local schools and do task day application with council.**
    2. Planting up community planters for spring. Agreed to Hold children’s task day in April. Agreed to use the £200 funding from Stockport Hydro to buy ready to plant veg and flowers. Agreed to using use the yogurt pot sets on our stalls at events in the Spring. Jo has Gately Primary sets. **JO to set the date and do the task day application with the council and invite local schools. JO to contact council and the allotments to see if they will donate any plants**
    3. Agreed to hold our family bub planting day in the autumn. Plan to boost numbers by inviting Guide and Scout Groups. **JO to contact Guide groups. SG to contact Scout groups.**
    4. HW offered to ask the Bethany Church Youth Group (age 11-16) if they would like to do a task day/ activity in the park. They meet on a Thursday evening. FOSP would be happy to organise an activity for them to do. **HW to contact Bethany Youth Group and contact JO to arrange activity**
12. **Website** Previous volunteer has not been back in touch. Currently looking for new volunteer. **SG agreed to develop website. JO to get information we need on existing site e.g. domain from previous volunteer.**
13. **Community engagement meeting at Kingway School.** FOSP invited. 3rd March 4.30pm**. JO to attend.**
14. **New Council Contacts.** Reorganisation at the council means that Greenspace Officers are now called Neighbourhood Project Officers. Our area is no longer covered by Jacky Budd, but it is now covered by Paul Clarke. We still have Richard Booker as the Play and Infrastructure Officer
15. **Green Space Forum Meeting.** 31st March. **BH to attend.**
16. **Need for anti dog poo signs for play area and running tack. BH to follow up with council**
17. **Any Other Business**
    1. We plan to do our stalls again this year at Gatley Sports day, Gatley Festival/Teddy bears picnic and at the Archaeology dig. Using the equipment we bought last year wherever possible. **To be planned at next meeting**
    2. Next FOSP meeting. Possible dates Monday 30th March or Thursday 2nd April at 6.30pm. **JO to check with councillors and confirm date as soon as possible.**