**MINUTES**

**MEETING AND AGM FRIENDS OF SCHOLES PARK**

**30th Nov 8.30pm**

Venue: ZOOM MEETING

1. **Attendees**

Jo Outterside

Simon Goldthorpe

Keith Holloway

Bridge Hanley

Kath Chow

Leanne Moriarty

Andrea Grimshaw

Gary Wade

Ethan Wade

Beth Jowett

Vanessa McManus

Kendra Brown

Rachel Knight

Vicky Harris

**Apologies**

Tracy Payton

1. **Actions from last meeting covered in relevant sections in the agenda**
2. **Annual Accounts**

SG presented accounts. See accompanying document.

1. **Archaeology Society Plans for Community Archaeological dig. Update – AG from SMART**

Previously Simon Fennel from the council said he could not support the dig project due to the refurb of Gately Hill House. KH&GG asked the council for a further explanation on this as unclear why this should have such an impact.It is now confirmed the council do support the project.

AG is in contact with Paul Edgeworth from the council on the GHH refurb and more information will be publicly available soon.

The National Lottery had suspended funding but the fund was reopened on 25 Nov 20. The fund is moving more towards heritage in crisis funding and so SMART may not have a strong enough case for funding at the moment. Because of this and because we have a better chance of delivering the project in 2021 they are delaying the application to later in 2021 and using the time now to finalise plans.

**RK from MOSI offered her support**

**FOSP will help in any way they can including detailed letters of support**

**KH can include plans in the Councillors newsletter which has a circulation of 1300.**

1. **Council Proposed Footpath Resurfacing Works (email from Richard Booker)**

The council would like to consult with us on the proposed footpath resurfacing works for the public right of way between Beech Av and Hawthorn Road. Once he has our feedback he will finalise the design. Works include;

* Fell the trees causing the damage to the path, will also allow more light onto the path
* Remove the poor quality vertical bar fencing on the park side of the path. This fencing is not be replaced allowing access onto the field from all along the path (meaning dogs water do not have to use the play park gate).
* Overlay the existing footpath with a new surface course with timber edging.
* Secure the footpath with bollards at each entrance (small section of fencing on Beech Av side)
* See plan for the number of trees shown for felling. This is the maximum. Currently reviewing that with Anthony Crook.
* Looking to deliver the works in the February half term to reduce the impact on the those that use it as a route to school.

Feedback from the group was we would like additional lighting to be included if possible. We would also like more detail on how vehicle and traveller access to the fields will be stopped. RK suggested asking what the council are going to do with the stumps and potentially using them in park for the story telling area or den building. Overall the proposal is supported. **JO and KG to feedback to the council**

1. **New Play Park Installations**

The new seesaw (Manchester Airport), new roundabout (Stockport Council) and replacement gate (Stockport Council) have been installed. The play park is now looking great.

1. **Park information Sign**

Application made to Shires Community Fund (through Cheadle Area Committee), for information sign. Now confirmed that application for £1470 has been confirmed as successful. Gone back to Shelley Signs (Councils preferred supplier) for an updated quote of what they can provide and install for that price. Maybe an A1 colour printed panel with park map and information. Or alternatively we could use surplus funds to put towards the original design which includes a notice board section. GRP sign on aluminium posts. Very hardwearing.

Feedback from the group was that the sign should include a map with footpaths and areas of interest. **JO to progress the install of the sign.**

1. **Plans for New Play Equipment – Obstacle Couse**

Total cost is £11,250

Go fund me page set up. Some donations from kind members of the public made but small amount

Made application to Ward flexibility fund and/or Shires Community Fund for funding towards.KH confirmed the trust had received the application and said it was likely they would fund a small proportion of the cost as this fits in with the funds plan to help projects which provide activities for young people. **BH to make application from Tesco community fund. JO to make application to John Lewis Community Support fund. Committee to make additional higher value funding applications. VM to review the opportunity to invest with the Gatley Primary School Trust. KG confirmed Lum Head plan to do charity bag packing days in the new year to contribute funds to FOSP.**

1. **Community orchard**

JO has contacted Antony Crook, Arboriculture Officer at Stockport Council. He is supportive and has said he would prefer the council to provide the trees rather than the public due to the risk of vandalism. Plan to meet in the park to discuss location and other details arranged for the 9th December. AG has provided information on historic orchard in the park and heritage varieties of apple. See these case studies <http://visitnewmills.co.uk/things-to-do/new-mills-community-orchard/> . <http://www.marple-uk.com/rollinswood/index.htm> It would be great to have an orchard we could hold events in.

1. **New Website.**

Now set up [www.friendsofscholespark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofscholespark.org.uk) and being kept up to date by the committee. EW offered his help with the website and marketing. Idea for Kingway students to contribute to the website e.g. with a video. Would be good for local explorers or DofE group. **VM will contact Kingway about this.**

1. **Activities in the park**
   1. Bulb planting session carried out with Good Gym volunteers. Bulbs kindly donated by Gatley Flower Rangers, Blooming Local (Jeffries Nursery) and from some individuals in the community.
   2. Planting up community planters. Two planters complete (Brookside Pre-school and Elm Road Church Sunday School)
   3. Kingsway activity planned with group planting up last planter and bulb planting **JO to arrange date**
   4. Gatley Primary bulb planting session planned **JO to arrange date**
   5. Lum Head Primary school would like to do a task day in January. **JO to arrange date**
   6. Installation of storytelling circle and actor giving story telling sessions. Plan to do this in the spring. Stockport Hydrohas invited funding applications. Suggestion to apply to them to cover the cost of this activity. Tree Station £50 to buy logs and woodchip. The actor costs £70 per hour plus £30 travel. For two hours total cost £220 and we could use some additional funds for a longer session (e.g. 3 hours for 3 separate school groups). We could ask GoodGym to do the installation.
2. **Running Track.** Plans for Gatley Primary to fund track improvements. Update from Richard Booker. He wants to discuss in more detail with Gatley Primary. Gatley Primary confirmed they are already in contact with him.
3. **Gatley Hill House Refurbishment.** Colin Owen has spoken to Councillor Mellor on this. He stated that the council have invested in the fabric of the house with the view for it to continue to be used by the community. A council department to be moved into the building. KH confirmed this was to be the top floor only and should not impact rooms available for use by the public.
4. **Café in the Park**. Possibility of café in GHH or coffee cart in the park/car park. SG had a meeting with Piccolos and contacted Richard Brooker at the Council. Richard is getting back to him. **SG to progress.**
5. **Idea for Virtual Trial in the Park.** <https://loveexploring.co.uk> **BG to progress.**
6. **Possible Changes on Constitution for Election of Committee Members. Committee to review and update constitution and policies before the next meeting.**
7. **AGM Election of Committee Members**

* Chair - Bridget Hanley
* Treasurer - Simon Goldthorpe
* Secretary - Jo Outterside
* Communications Officer Victoria Harris
* Heritage officer Rachel Knight

1. **Any Other Business**
   1. Next FOSP meeting 1st Feb 8.30pm.