**MINUTES**

**MEETING FRIENDS OF SCHOLES PARK**

**14th June 2021 8.30pm**

Venue: ZOOM, MEETING ID 961 5015 8882, Password FOSP

1. Introductions

Apologies: Simon Goldthorpe (Treasurer)

Attendees:

Bridget Hanley (Chairperson)

Jo Outterside (Secretary)

Victoria Harris (Communications Officer)

Rachel Knight (Heritage Officer)

Jonathon Davies (Local Resident)

Gary Wade (Local Resident)

Vanessa McManus (Gatley Primary)

Tracey Payton (Gatley Primary)

Keith Holloway (Councillor)

Jay704 (Did not introduce themselves)

Actions from last meeting covered in relevant sections in the agenda. Actions from this meeting in bold

1. Recent Events
   1. Tree identification task and planting of flowers along the new path by Brownies and Sunday School Group May 2020
   2. Shrubs kindly donated by local resident. Will be used on task day in shrub and wildflower area by play park.
2. Funding
   1. Activity trail funds raised so far.
      1. **JO to chaise up £2500 funds promised by the Brookfield Trust through the Cheadle Area Committee**
      2. Charity collection tins now in local shops (A&I, Horse and Harrier, Coop)
      3. Other application and fundraising opportunities. Applications made to Co-op (BH) and Arnold Clark (JO)
      4. SG informed us if our income is over £5000 per year we need to apply for charitable status. **Action SG**
      5. BH idea for a virtual balloon race. People pay for a balloon and name it. You then watch where it travels virtually online. **Action BH.**
      6. Calendar idea. **VH, BH and JO to progress**. Plan to ask people to submit photos for each month and do an online vote. To include photos by Josie local photographer with her permission. To do jointly with Gatley Carrs. Speak to Gatley Carrs group. Ask local businesses to sponsor a month each. Ask Sign and Display/Gatley signs for printing.
      7. Council have fed back they may be willing to contribute up to £2000 to get the project over the line.
      8. Other funding application ideas – Morrison’s and Waitrose funding applications. **BH to progress.**
3. Information Sign install update
   1. All information with Shelly signs who are designing the sign. Thank you to Keith for judging the art competition.
   2. Working with the council on final location.
4. Gatley Hill House
   1. Feedback from council on refurbishment. Upstairs is to be converted to council offices and downstairs rooms to be refurbished and made available again for community use. Refurbishment to start from mid July 21 and will take 6 six months. Community groups are having to find alternative rooms for this period. Plan to dig trenches and lay cables on the approach to the building for broadband connection in June 21. **RK to inform SMART of the work. JO to find out if the price of community group room rental will go up after the refurb.**
   2. Opportunity for CCTV with refurbishment. **BH to raise with council.**
5. SMART archaeological project in Gatley Hill House Grounds
   1. No major update. Lottery funding now reopened. The group are likely to resubmit their funding application next year.
6. Feedback from meeting with Gatley Golf Course Developers.
   1. BH and SG attended meeting with developers representative Jeremy Boyd. They discussed working with Scholes park should the development go ahead which the developers are keen to do. Noted that plans for the development are at a very early stage and no where near the planning application stage. KH has send a list of questions to the developers which are yet to be answered and asked for developers to issue a more detailed document for public comment. JD knows Jeremy Boyd and has offered his help if needed.
7. Running Track
   1. VM and TP feedback on meeting with council about the offer from the Gatley Primary Education Trust to make a community donation for the refurbishment of the running track. No special access to the running track for Gatley Primary is requested as part of this donation and this is a goodwill gesture for the community which is supported by FOSP. The meeting was positive, but it is frustrating that the offer has not been acted on by the council for two years, and the council have provided no further feedback to GP after their meeting. The funds have been ring fenced in the education trust, but this cannot go on indefinitely. A commitment in principle from the council to go ahead with the refurbishment is required by the end of July for the funding to be committed going forward. It would be very disappointing if the council prevented this community investment to be made. **TP to arrange further meeting with the council with FOSP, Cllr KH, JD and Colin Owen to also be invited.**
   2. The Council provided feedback to FOSP. Richard Booker said the council were carrying out a survey with a specialist sports surface company to access refurbishment cost (which they will compare with the quote TP & JO got from local contractors now two years old), and ongoing maintenance cost. This is part of a number of surveys they are undertaking for sports area. Results expected within 6 weeks.
   3. JD raised the issue that the council have a responsibility under the covenant covering the park to maintain the running track.
   4. After the meeting Cllr KH had some further information on past maintenance of the running track which he asked to be included in the minutes: “the council had only ever mowed the grass, maintenance of the running track itself (to keep it at athletic club standard) was met by the Harriers Running Club, that was anything up to £10k per year”.
8. Idea for enclosed dog walking area as alternative to exercising dogs on running track. To be discussed in future meetings once the long term plan for the running track to be refurbished is clearer. Reinstatement of the signs stating no dogs allowed in the enclosed sports area and replacement of the gate to also to be discussed at a later date.
9. New path.
   1. Report of cyclists using path. Sign asking cyclists to dismount is small. GW asked if we could ask for a bigger sign. Council feedback additional signage to be installed. A report was made of an accident where a student from Kingsway knocked a pedestrian over who was injured. **JO to contact Kingsway to ask if students can be reminded not to cycle on the path. VH to put a reminder on FOSP/Gatley FB group**
   2. Path verges. GW asked are these to be managed by council contractors. Feedback from council is yes. Additional tidying and grass seeding to be done by council contractors.
   3. Council plan to survey of local residents and groups for feedback on the path. FOSP agreed to help distribute this on website/facebook for our members to respond.
10. Dog agility equipment. We could set a crowd funder for this. Suggested Pam Rolly may like to be involved. To be discussed in future meetings.
11. Homeless person living in the park. Council feedback agencies working with him.
12. Request for more/bigger bins made to council. Feedback some bins to be replaced, in particular the bin on the GHH entrance to Gatley Hill.
13. Requirement for all weather paths for access into and around the park
    1. SG has put together a path improvement plan with phase 1 and 2 mapped out.
    2. Council feedback no funding at the moment to implement but will be considered long term
    3. Council agreed to lay woodchip if available from local tree work.
14. Protecting green spaces in terms of the spatial framework changes
    1. Fields in trust application. The current Cabinet will not support these applications and turned down an application from Gatley Carrs group. **KH will keep providing pressure for this to be considered and will seek support from the Green Party Councillor in Stockport on this issue.**
15. Fly tipping campaign. Posters and signs now on display.
16. Wall Mural Idea. Could we have a wall mural under the railway bridge to cover the graffiti e.g. Lee Hartley – Urban Dirt Wall Murals. This could include ideas on nature, Gatley and community. Idea supported and we would like the Kingsway art department to be involved. We would speak to the neighbours of this area before anything was done. **JO to speak to Kingsway and to look into funding options.**
17. Planned events.
    1. Larger community task day to tidy entrance to play park, improve wildflower area and plant fruit bushes (£150 of GMP fund money still available to spend). Gatley Flower Rangers are going to provide us with advice and ideas.
    2. Dog show. To be considered in later meetings
    3. Christmas lantern event planned.
    4. Children’s events maintaining planters, bird watching and bat watching
18. Any Other Business
    1. City of trees plan. No update received on this situation. The issue of whether the park convenient means trees cannot be planned on the upper field is still with the councils legal department.
    2. Large tree has fallen where people walk between the top and middle field in Gatley Hill. **JO to report to arboricultural officer**
    3. Next FOSP meeting. 16th September 8.30pm. To be held in person if restrictions allow at Elm Road church hall or at Gatley Primary.