**Agenda**

**MEETING OF FRIENDS OF SCHOLES PARK**

**30th June 2022 8pm**

Venue: Piccolo’s Restaurant, Gatley

1. Attendees

Bridget Hanley (Chair), Jo Outterside (Secretary), Simon Goldthorpe (Treasurer), Graham Greenhalgh (Councillor), Gary Wade (Gatley URC and local resident), Jennifer Bradbury (local resident), Alan Bradbury (local resident)

Apologies

Victoria Harris (Communications Officer), Rachel Knight (Heritage Officer), Keith Holloway (Councillor), Iain Hunter (Councillor), Alison Jones (Kingsway School), Tracey Payton (Gatley Primary)

1. Accounts – Simon Goldthorpe. See separate sheet available on request.
2. Trim Trail Play Equipment– fund raising complete, and the Council have agreed to fund a small shortfall. Due to be installed before September 2022. A meeting to be arranged with Council Officer Richard Booker to finalise exact placement locations **SG**.

Ideas for future improvements to the play area suggested including those tailored to SEN (Special Educational Needs). Accessible swing, sensory stations. There may be SEM related funding we could access for this

1. Entrance Path Improvements as per our long-term plan. Plan to apply for funding through Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund. Deadline for applications is 22nd August. Would be good to use sustainable materials. Plan to focus on most muddy areas potentially with reinforced surface/matting. Feedback from Richard Booker Council Officer in advance of meeting on email is he would support us and help pull together a spec and costs. Meeting to be arranged with him **SG.** Graham to also mention project in meeting with Councils Highways team as their contractors would most likely undertake the work.

Feedback on possible areas to be improved from Richard on email. The entrance from Fairway is highway adopted and a stretch is under Stockport Homes responsibly to maintain. Richard will investigate this further. The entrance from Firs Roads is not highway adopted and is the Council Neighbourhoods responsibility to maintain so could be easier option for improvements.

There is a zoom meeting to advise on the green spaces fund application. Bridget to forward the link **BH.**

1. Gatley Hill House Refurbishment. Information from Graham. Work is now complete on the House and due to be occupied by council and community rooms made available in July 2022. Car park to be resurfaced. Potential to fundraise for additional sign (similar to the recently installed sign but focusing on history of the GHH) and new bench. Graham advised that if the bench was a “happy to talk” bench there would be a good chance of receiving funding from Brookfield Shires Trust. Jo to get quotes for both and make funding applications **JO**
2. Update on the art project with Kingsway School under railway arch at Foxland Road Entrance to Park. All arrangements are in place with Network Rail who have given permission for the work. A 12 month lease for £1 p.a. has been signed as per their procedure. Funding for the project was received from the Brookfield Park Shires Family Trust. Six printed laminated aluminium panels are to be fitted on the walls of the arch. The artwork is being produced by Kingsway School students and local professional artist Eamonn Murphy. The artwork brief is buildings and bold architecture in Gatley. Also, history, greenspace and recreation. Things the student love about Gatley and the park. Workshops have been held at Kingsway with Eamonn on the 9th and 28th June. The artwork is due to be completed on 18th July and the panels produced and installed before the schools return in September.
3. Vandalism to trees in the park. Reported to Daryll Falconer. Neighbourhood Officer SC.
4. Potential to use Scholes Park as a venue for outdoor plays. Other local venues are Fletcher Moss Park and Walkden Gardens, Sale (Heartbreak Productions and Waterside Theatre), Wilmslow Carrs (Time & Again Theatre Company) Could use the carpark and facilities at the sports pavilion. The running also suggested as has power in place. Feedback from Daryll and Jane Bradsley at the council is that the Pavilion is heavily used for football and cricket fixtures so it would depend on clashes with matches. If an event application was submitted by the group, it would be considered checking there was no conflict with sports activities and it certainly wasn’t ruled out. To move this forward we need a partner who we could work with to put on the play/event, and we would assist in writing the application to council. A pop-up café was also discussed, as discussed at previous meetings. Again, a partner is needed to run the café.
5. Cheshire Wildlife trust wasted space campaign. Areas of the park to put forward was discussed. Area near play park with old hard standing was suggested. This area has been suggested as the orchard location or area for bird/bar insect boxes (see below). Bridget to upload photos of this area to the website and move this forward. **BH**
6. Income is over £5000 per year we need to apply for charitable status. Simon has spoken to financial advisor who may be willing to help us at no cost. The format of our accounts will need to be changed. **SG**
7. Running track improvements. Simon to work with Gatley Runners to organise task day. **SG** Could also invite Scouts group who use the track for sports. Jo to follow up on request for Simon to do power tools council training **JO**
8. Recent Events
   1. Easter Trail 14th April
   2. Schools task day event with Kingsway, Gatley Primary, Lum Head Primary and Brookside Pre-school. Litter pick, planting and painting planters. 27th April 2022
   3. Brownies and Rainbows flower spotting and Jubilee picnic event 27th May 2022
9. Upcoming events to Plan
   1. Community task day on the running track (see above)
   2. Other potential events in longer term,
      1. Fundraising calendar. Need to start now ready for Christmas. Request photos on facebook **JO & VH.** We could also ask local groups e.g. Brookside, the allotment society for photos directly.
      2. Christmas 2022. Plan to do lantern parade again, working with Scouts for their Christmas stalls. Ideally to be done on Light Switch on day. Hold meeting with Bethany Church well in advance. Graham will support on liaising with Bethany Church and St James’ **GG.** Simon has petty cash to use for materials for this.
      3. Bat identification. **VH** knows an expert, Bobby that would do a session and will contact him to book. Needs to be in the summer. **JO** to apply to Stockport Hydro or another fund to pay for this.
      4. Task day to tidy entrance to play park, improve wildflower area and plant fruit bushes. Involve Gatley Flower Rangers and blooming local.
      5. Bird, bat, insect boxes task day for children. Jennifer has a contact at a trust in Marple who may be able to provide us with materials and a session to make bird boxes. **JB** Following advice from the task day training we would need to ask council contractors to install them (community groups are not permitted to use ladders under the council’s insurance).
      6. Additional litter picks with local schools.
      7. Gatley open gardens June 2023. Jennifer will invite us to next planning meeting. **JB**
10. Any Other Business.

Gatley festival. We wish the festival committee the best of luck with Sunday’s festival using Scholes Park/Gatley Hill as a venue. The festival committee has approached us asking us to be involved next year, for the 100-anniversary festival, particularly for events planned for the Saturday including family picnic and sports day. FOSP are happy to be involved.

Graham is aware of a Peace Tree project we may be able to take part in. He will discuss with the council tree officer. **GG**

Gary raised that the path near Gatley Primary is very overgrown with nettles and needs cutting back. To be reported to Daryll Falconer at the council. **JO**

The Council will have bulbs to donate again. We are happy to accept any bulbs or seeds for the park. Graham to distribute to us. **GG**

Graham thinks the playpark should be fenced off. This has been discussed with the Council before and they have stated it is not the Councils current policy to do this. Graham to raise with the council again. **GG**

**Next meeting is due early October 2022.**