**Agenda**

**MEETING AND AGM OF FRIENDS OF SCHOLES PARK**

**1st November 2022 8pm**

Venue: Piccolo’s Restaurant, Gatley

1. Attendees – Bridge Hanley (Chair), Jo Outterside (Secretary), Simon Goldthorpe (Secretary), Emma Forbes (Brookside Pre-School), Leanne Moriarty (Brookside Pre-School), Fran Staton (Bethany Church), David Meggers (Bethany Church), Matthew Carlisle (St James’ Church), Ian Hunter (Councillor), Keith Holloway (Councillor)
2. Apologies – Gary Wade (local resident and Elm Road URC Church), Rachel Knight (Heritage Officer), Victoria Harris (Communications Officer)
3. Accounts – Presented by SG. Available on request.
4. Trim Trail and Artwork Official Opening Event was held on Sunday 30th October and was a big success. It was a good chance for us to thank all the funders for these two projects. The play equipment ribbon was cut by the Mayor and assistant Mayor. The artwork ribbon was cut by artist Eamonn Murphy and a student from Kingsway school. Our Stockport Councillors and Lib Dem parliament candidate also attended, and we thank them for their support. We had a drink and snack stall, bulb planting and a pumpkin competition. Thanks to Stockport Tourism for helping to promote and inviting the Mayor.
5. Plan for funding and install of a new basket swing. Application made to lottery grant awards for all (£10,000) and we are hoping for a Gatley Festival Grant of (£500). We also plan to fundraise for other SEN focused equipment such as large musical instruments. **BH**
6. Christmas lantern parade and Christmas light switch on 27th November is being organised. To be called the Gatley Light event. This includes community stalls, small businesses stalls and the FOSP lantern parade. Also, school choirs and hopefully a band. Being co-ordinated by **JO**. Request sent out for stalls and entertainment and to a wide range of community groups and places of worship. Detailed plan will be emailed to all who have offered to provide a stall or entertainment. The council support and will provide someone to operate the lights. However, as the Green is not council owned, we need to purchase our own insurance. JO to contact the Mayor of Stockport to see if he will attend and switch on the lights. St James’ are to hold their Christmas tree festival on the same afternoon as part of the event. Bethany church are holding their Christmas events the weekend after. These include donkey rides and Santa’s sleigh, the Santa breakfast and a choir. Next year we will look to organise for the same weekend. We are to include the Bethany church events on the same leaflet/posters. **JO** to co-ordinate with **FS**.
7. Entrance Path Improvements. Plan to apply for funding through Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund. We have a quote ready from the council to include in this application, providing all weather paths in short sections to prevent mud at three entrances to the park. The fund has now re-opened and **JO** to make the application.
8. New Bench outside of Gatley Hill House Refurbishment. Application made to Brookfield Shiers Family Trust to fund. Application to be heard at the Councillors Area Committee Meeting on 7th November. **SG** is to attend to answer questions and talk through the application.
9. New information sign outside of Gatley Hill House, on the history of the building and facilities in the park. Quote obtained from Shelly signs. Funding application made to Miller Homes Community Fund. MC suggested Martin Dailey a local historian could provide the information for the sign. **JO** to follow up if/when we get the funding.
10. Cheshire Wildlife trust wasted space campaign. **BH** to follow up.
11. Cheshire Wildlife trust outreach programme. **BH** to follow up.
12. Stockport Green Festival Next April. Plan to bring community organisations together for one event. FOSP keen to be involved. **KH** will give us more details.
13. Gatley open gardens next spring. **JO** to plan children’s event in the park for this.
14. Voting for members of the committee for the coming year. All present agreed to support the re-election of the present committee.
15. Any Other Business.
    1. Brookside pre-school use an area of Scholes Park for their forest school. They report problems with dog poo and request that a bigger bin, or a dog poo bin is provided near the scout hut. **JO** to email Daryll at the council.
    2. Covid memorial funding was mentioned by the Mayor at our last event. The Councillors explained this is a commemorative fund and they are looking for ideas. FOSP are keen to apply for artwork for the park, particularly a statue or sculpture outside of Gatley Hill House. **BH** to follow up with the Councillors.
    3. Stockport Hydro fund is open for applications. **JO** to apply for funding.
    4. Rachel Knight provided information on a Museum of Science and Industry and City of trees project to provide tree trails with a map and information on trees, and tree rubbing points in parks. FOSP are keen to apply for a trail. **RK.**
    5. The Councillors reported that the Gatley Hill House car park refurbishment is now complete. This was done following an accident involving a Brookside Preschool parent due to a pothole. There are additional big potholes at the bottom of the access road hear Wellcroft. **IH** agreed to raise this with the Council Highways team.
    6. Gatley Hill House is still not accepting community group bookings. **KH** to follow up with council.
    7. **SG** is going to organise a running track task day with Gatley Runners.
    8. The sports pavilion car park fence is damaged. **SG** to report to Richard Booker at the Council.
    9. IH reported that he is going a walk around in the area around Gately Hill House with a local PC next week. He will bring up security concerns and litter concerns. The Scouts are arranging a litter pick in this area. Brookside pre-school explained they see and report to the police stolen cars and the contents of cars in this area and would like CCTV. **IH** to raise this.
    10. Motor bikes and quad bikes is still an issue in the park. This has been a focus of the police. Still under reported. All are urged to report any via 101 on by the police website to obtain a crime number to highlight the problem to attract police resources.
    11. Next meeting to arranged in three months’ time. As it was difficult to hear in the busy Piccolo’s restaurant this will be held at Elm Road Church. The group are very grateful to Piccolo’s for hosting our last few meetings.