**FRIENDS OF BECKETT PARK**

**MINUTES OF AGM 19.4.2016**

**Venue: Private function room, Salvo’s Restaurant, Otley Road, Leeds 6**

**Present:** Margaret Crowe (Chair), Andrew Pomeroy (Secretary and Parks Liaison), Helen Kirk (representing Beckett Park Residents Association), Lesley Cook-McKay (Treasurer), Carmel Kent, Alison Barker, Martin Groom, Kathy Jenkins, Paul Marchant

**Apologies:** Liz Thompson, Co. Sue Bentley, Co. Jonathan Bentley

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| **1** | **Chair’s report - MC** |
| 1.1 | MC thanked those attending. |
| 1.2 | The Friends group has been in existence for just over a year. |
| 1.3 | Thanks also to Parks personnel for their liaison and attendance at meetings |
| 1.4 | Thanks to Councillors Sue and Jonathan Bentley who have been supportive and who have contributed MICE money |
| 1.5 | Thanks to the Committee who helped oversee S.106 funded improvements, and positioning of the WWI memorial bench. |
| 1.6 | MC thanked people who helped with the picnic in August, including Katie Fabri, Liz Thompson and members of the Committee. 30 people attended. |
| 1.7 | Thanks to all the many helpers on the two work days when overcrowded saplings were removed and Woodland Trust saplings were planted. |
| 1.8 | Progress has been made on the website (serving both the Friends and the Becketts Park Residents Association). In addition the Facebook page has been invaluable and we have a presence on Twitter. |
| **2** | **Treasurer’s report - LCM** |
| 2.1 | LCM presented the financial statement for the year ending 31.3.16. |
| 2.2 | Income including MICE money and a grant from the Chestnut fund totalled £651.17. Expenditure including tools, insurance, website and stationary totalled £430.35. Funds currently stand at £220.82. |
| **3** | **Approval of the Accounts** |
| 3.1 | The meeting approved the accounts. |
| **4** | **Parks Liaison report - AP** |
| 4.1 | AP reported that the Friends hope to sign a Community Partnership Agreement (CPA) with Parks in the near future. |
| 4.2 | Training such as First Aid training is needed as a condition of the CPA. |
| 4.3 | The Woodland Trust saplings were successfully planted and appear to be taking successfully. It s hoped to apply for more saplings next season. |
| 4.4 | £8000 grant from Tesco Bags of Help fund will be spent on up to 45 specimen trees to be panted next winter. Only 75% of the money will be paid up front so we need to find a means of covering the final 25%, which will only be paid on completion of the project. AP is working on a planting proposal which will be consulted on prior to the trees being ordered. It is hoped that the planting can be done by volunteers to reduce costs. Possibility of smaller trees but with protective guards may be worth pursuing. To comply with grant conditions the Friends need an Equal Opportunities Policy, as well as Public Liability Insurance to cover the planting activities. |
| 4.5 | Restoration of the gates and railings is high on the wish-list for the next major project. Quotes to be sought once a specification has been prepared. |
| 4.6 | A draft of a Park Action Plan was presented for discussion. Subject to comments received this will be presented to Parks for comment and approval. MG suggested refurbishment of the skate park should be included under the final item (facilities for young people). It was suggested that Andy Bowles –retired historian at Leeds Becketts University – might be a useful contact regarding history of the estate re. the information boards. |
| **5** | **AOB** |
| 5.1 | A discussion took place regarding the student deputation asking for lighting in the park. PM volunteered to represent the group in discussions with the Council as he has done research on lighting issues. A Council officer (Neil Evans) will be talking to the students re. the lighting – the meeting felt that similar direct talks should be sought by the Friends. |
| **6** | **Date of next ordinary meeting** – since the AGM it has been agreed this will be put back a week to **19.5.16**, 7.00 pm, at 101 Beckett Park Drive. |

Minutes by AP