

**Manor Fields Association AGM
Held on 16 April 2015
At Brampton Manor**

Attendance and apologies

Present were Angela Fookes, Chris Hill, Peter Passmore, Karen Czernik, Huw Griffith, Dennis Hooper, Leon Hayward, Adam Barnes, Roger Wilson, Brendon Weager, Jon Rawlinson, Sandra Passmore, John Wadge, Dave Fookes, David Oldale, Pam Oldale, Barry Kay, Pam Kay, and Beverley Kauss. Apologies were received from Liz Foster, Lee Shaw, Mary Ofield, and Gordon Partington.

Minutes of 2014 AGM

These were handed out at the meeting and were accepted as correct.

Matters arising

None.

Chairperson's report

Angela Fookes welcomed members to the meeting and gave a summary of activities since the last AGM.

- In March 2014 we started the annual appeal and raised over £800, to which Gift Aid was added. We have a faithful and generous giving base of around 30-35 people and are really grateful to the people who give. At least £1000 is needed each year just to mow and insure the fields, before we think of doing any improvement work.
- In June 2014 Brampton Rovers under - 10s asked for, and were granted, permission to use the north field again for midweek training. A mixed football team (7-8 year olds) also used the field. As most participants live nearby, there were no parking issues. They gave a small donation to the funds, and we hope to renew the arrangement for the latter team this summer.
- In July 2014 we again took part in the Inkermann Buzz – but what a wet day it was. Somehow we managed to raise £93 during the day from the sale of ice cream, scones and jam. In time for the day, Adam had created a new logo for Manor Fields, and incorporated it into our new website and leaflet.
- In September 2014 the long grass on three sides of each field was flailed, the hay baled and removed, which was a big improvement on previous years when we had to gather up the hay ourselves. The hedges were not cut last year as the wet weather prevented access by the machines.
- In October 2014 we held our first Dog Agility Day as part of the Chatsworth Road Festival, partnering with the Friends of the Inkerman who held a bird box building afternoon. The event evolved from a suggestion by Margaret Mason at the 2013 AGM. The sun came out for the afternoon event which was a great success. At least 150 dogs and their owners took part, and it was good to connect both with dog owners who regularly use the fields, and new people who

came along because of the Chatsworth Road Festival. Brendon had our Facebook page up and running before the day, and continues to keep it fresh and interesting by constantly adding new photos. A similar day will be held on Saturday 3 October 2015 – Brendon gave details of this event.

- The main gate into the fields practically collapsed just before the Dog Agility Day. Our aim for some while had been to create an easier entrance to the fields for wheelchair users and to that end Jon had already removed a tree and hired a root grinder to remove the roots from the entrance area. We are very grateful to councillors Ron Mihaly and Keith Morgan who gave donations of £500 and £250 respectively to pay for the main gate to be rehung and a new sidegate installed. This is still a work in progress, as we need to improve the gateway surface to prevent it being so boggy when it rains. We are currently exploring resurfacing options with DCC.
- In January 2015 the apple trees were pruned, the grass spiked, and new bird boxes and insect hotels put up. We purchased a stainless steel dog bag dispenser for the gate to replace the old plastic one. We also replaced the lock on the gate.
- We added Manor Fields as an organisation on Streetlife, a local form of Facebook which can be used to publicise our events.
- Finally, following discussions at the last AGM and several committee meetings, Leon drafted a management plan for the fields, which will be discussed later.

So, to sum up, it has been a busy but productive year in which we have started to improve the entrance area, held two successful public events, increased our social media presence to raise the profile, and created a draft management plan which will enable us to plan for the future.

Angela gave thanks for the enthusiasm and dedication of the committee, and gave particular thanks to Jon Rawlinson and Leon Hayward who are standing down from the committee although Jon will still carry on his oversight of the trees.

She thanked all the members for their continued support, ideas and encouragement.

Treasurer's report

Chris Hill reported that income for the year was £2995.97, outgoings £2328.00, and that the balance in hand was approx £4000. The current appeal has so far raised £1150.

Membership

Membership of the Manor Fields Association currently stands at 202. Several houses in the area changed hands during the year, and positive contact was made with each new resident.

Management Plan

A draft management plan had been prepared by Leon Hayward and approved by the committee for presentation to the members. Copies were handed out and discussion

was invited. Leon elaborated on various points. A vote was taken and the draft was approved by the members as the management plan for the Association.

Election of Committee

Jon Rawlinson and Leon Hayward were standing down from the committee. All other members were willing to stand for re-election. Lee Shaw was also willing to stand as a new member. All of the above were elected unanimously.

Trees

Jon reported that all trees were in good condition. He will continue to look after them for the Association, and asked for any problems that are found to be reported to him.

Any Other Business

Jon reported that volunteers are required to act as marshals for the Chesterfield Marathon. If anyone volunteers and says they are representing the Manor Fields Association, then the Association will get a share of any payment which is made.

The meeting closed at 8.30