

**Manor Fields Association AGM  
Held on 7 July 2016  
At St Thomas's Meeting Room**

**Attendance and apologies**

Present were Angela Fookes, Chris Hill, Peter Passmore, Adam Barnes, Liz Foster, Lee Shaw, John Wadge, Margaret Mason, Gordon Partington, Trevor Chappell, Margaret Chappell, and Pamela Turner. Apologies were received from Karen Czernik, Brendon Weager, Beverley Riley, Dennis Hooper, Sandra Passmore, and Dave Fookes.

**Minutes of 2015 AGM**

These were handed out at the meeting and were accepted as correct. There were no matters arising.

**Chairperson's report**

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

- We have just had a successful appeal, with about 30 households giving generously. The standing cost of mowing and insurance rises each year, from around £1000 in 2001 to around £1300 last year. We are grateful to all who give each year – and we have many faithful givers.
- We again have football training happening on the fields on Thursday evenings. A young mixed Brampton Rovers team coached by a resident of Ashgate Avenue enthusiastically train around 6pm each week.
- We held a highly successful Dog Event in October, raising £340. This was well attended, and was a really happy event with about 175 people and 150 dogs having a good time. The dog show and raffle were particularly successful. There will be a similar event this year on 1<sup>st</sup> October, with the addition of a stand aimed at children's activities.
- Following on from replacing the side gate and repairing the main gate, we concentrated on improving the entrance area surface to make it more weatherproof. After considering various options, we decided on plastic meshing with stones laid under and over it. This has been a huge success, keeping the entrance area dry and accessible all year, even if you do go straight into a puddle away from the gate!
- This year, we were fortunate to gain the services of a new tree surgeon called Jamie Shortland. He has already done work on two trees, cutting back the London Plane to the left of the entrance, and felling a dangerous decayed tree in the south field.
- Behind the scenes, much work has been going on to apply to change the charitable status from a charitable trust to a CIO (charitable incorporated organisation). Those members who attended the special general meeting in the autumn regarding this change may have been wondering what has happened since. The application was submitted earlier this week and we hope it will be successful. The new structure will limit committee members' liability, which will help us all sleep peacefully. As part of the process, we need a valuation for the fields – does any member know of anyone who is prepared to donate their service for this.
- As we go forward into 2016 we hope to plant more bulbs in the autumn to enhance the beauty of the fields in the spring. An exciting recent find was of two spotted orchids.

Angela gave thanks to Roger Wilson, whose death earlier this year had saddened us all. He had been a committee member from the very start of Manor Fields Association, and worked unstintingly for the fields. We feel his loss.

She gave thanks to all the committee members, and felt that we were a very happy, diverse and talented group. It was a privilege to work with them.

She thanked all the members for their ongoing support, encouragement and interest.

The meeting thanked Angela for all the work that she does on their behalf, especially for all the hours that she has put into the CIO application and associated work.

### **Treasurer's report**

Chris Hill reported that standing costs have risen to about £1500 each year. We had a balance of just over £4000 at the last AGM. Since then expenditure has been £350.48 for repairs to the entrance area, £320 for tree surgery, £826.80 for mowing and hedge cutting, £328.50 for insurance, and £80.00 miscellaneous costs including printing. Income has been £291.92 profit from the dog event, £300 sponsorship for this year's event, £1154.71 tax refund for three year's donations, and so far £1005 from current donations. The balance in hand the previous day was £4967.68. Costs of changing to a CIO have yet to be paid and will include £275 solicitor's fees, and £250 to DCC for transfer of the deeds.

There was a discussion on sale of raffle tickets at the Dog Event. Last year we only sold tickets on the day. A small gaming license (costing £40) is required to sell tickets in advance, but this could be more than covered by additional sales. The committee will consider this at their meeting.

### **Membership**

The list of members was updated last year before the special AGM and is currently just under 200. A new resident letter is given to all residents moving into the area, with an invitation to join.

### **Tree report**

Lee Shaw reported that, although not a tree surgeon, he had taken over the responsibility to act as liaison officer for the committee with Ruth Baker (the DCC tree officer), and the tree surgeon. The annual tree inspection showed one tree rotting and dangerous, another with heavy branches overhanging a garden, and one at the top of the north field requiring attention. After approval from DCC, a tree surgeon called Jamie Shortland was approached and did a very good job for us. We have since asked Jamie to be our regular tree consultant, and he has agreed.

### **Social Media Report**

Adam Barnes reported that the website and Facebook site have had up to 300 people looking at them. He is hoping to introduce "My Donate" electronic donation facility once the change to CIO has gone through, to possibly encourage donations from those who no longer use cheque books. These pages are regularly updated with news and photographs.

### **Election of Committee**

All existing members were willing to stand for re-election, and were re-elected unanimously.

### **Any Other Business**

Pamela Turner said that newsletters are not always delivered to Rhodesia Road. Angela said that we would ensure that this is done in future.

John Wadge asked about the frequency of mowing as it sometimes seems to happen with great frequency. Angela explained that we contract for a minimum number of cuts but that the council cut when it is convenient for them and we sometimes get more than we expect. The cost remains the same.

The meeting closed at 8.15