

## **Manor Fields Association**

### **Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 15 October 2015**

#### **Present**

Angela Fookes, Adam Barnes, Peter Passmore, Beverley Riley, Dennis Hooper, Chris Hill, Brendon Weager, Lee Shaw and Huw Griffith.

Apologies were received from Liz Foster, Roger Wilson and Karen Czernik.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

#### **Finance**

The current bank balance is £4450.08 after banking the £340.25 takings from the dog event. Some expenses still need to be paid. About £900 is due from a reclaim of gift aid covering the last 3 or 4 years. For future appeals, gift aided amounts must show the title, surname, initials, and postcode of the donor i.e. is it the husband or the wife who is the gift aider.

#### **Flailing and grass-cutting**

During hedge-cutting, the council damaged the seat given by Dennis. They also dislodged the stone gate-post when entering to cut the fields. They have agreed to repair the gate-post and to refund the cost of a new bench.

All sides of the fields were cut this year despite our asking for one in each field to be left. Not all of the hedges have been cut on the top as well as the side. Angela has reported this to them.

#### **Trees**

Lee reported that he has spoken to Ruth Baker. She has been on site for a tree inspection – one poplar tree needs removing (2<sup>nd</sup> tree on the left on entering the field). One tree in the north field needs monitoring, and one tree needs pollarding. Chris has obtained a quote of £350 for this work. Lee will get a second quote from someone Leon recommended, and both he and Chris will ensure that both contractors have adequate qualifications.

David Penk, our insurance broker, came to the dog event and told Angela that it would do no harm to put up a notice saying that people use the fields at their own risk. However, he has confirmed that our insurance covers liability to person and property from falling trees provided that we maintain them correctly, and ensure that all contractors have adequate qualifications.

#### **Field entrance**

Chris has obtained a quote of approx £600 for labour and materials to lay 50 tiles of plastic meshing over an area of 11.26 square metres at the field entrance. Angela will apply for a grant from the Chesterfield Borough Council community assembly, who can give up to £200 for such improvements.

### **Dog agility event**

Brendon reported that this was very successful. The weather was excellent and we estimated about 175 people and 150 dogs attended. The cakes, drinks, and raffle were such an attraction that we had difficulty keeping up with demand. We need more helpers if it is repeated next year, and Brendon will need an assistant to help with the dog show.

### **Charitable Status**

St. Thomas's hall has been booked for 7pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November at a cost of £15, plus £5 for use of the kitchen. Sandra Pink will attend and address the meeting. All members of the Manor Fields Association must be given 21 days' notice of the meeting. A quorum of 20 members is required at the meeting and 2/3rds of those attending must agree to the dissolution of the existing charity. Angela had prepared letters for personal distribution to the membership. A copy of the membership list was given to all committee members with a number of letters and an indication of which ones each committee member will approach.

### **Any other business**

A lady backing on to the south west corner on the south field has offered to organise a coffee morning for dog walkers in the approach to Christmas. The committee agreed to accept this offer and to possibly run a raffle for which Angela already has some prizes left over from the dog event.

### **Next Meeting**

14<sup>th</sup> January to be followed by the annual drinks and nibbles.