

FRIENDS OF ST. NICHOLAS PARK
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at Pickard Street Community Centre
On Friday 16th August 2019

- 1. Apologies** were received from Andy and Jenny Cowlard and Janette from Sea Scouts.
- 2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd August 2018** were approved.
- 3. Matters arising** to be dealt with under Agenda items.
- 4. Annual Report**

The Friends attended a recent meeting of Myton Road residents and the Ward Cllr. Neale Murphy regarding Traveller incursions, ASB and the possibility of CCTV. The height restriction at the fishermen's gate had been taken down because the fishermen could not get in because the bolts had been sheared off the gate. The bolts have now been replaced and the height restrictor back in place. There do not appear to be collapsible bollards across the Fields near the Sea Scouts storage site, as promised. Cars are still driving across the length of the fields.

The meeting appeared promising and Cllr. Murphy had put proposals forward to the new Council Leader. They will be bearing in mind the Kings High girls walking across the park now to get to their new school. With the new administration and half the councillors being newly elected, there appears to be a more positive attitude at WDC which is encouraging. Cllr. Murphy will keep us up to date with progress.

It was the intention of the Sea Scouts to move their compound to the site adjacent to their current HQ hut. There has been no progress yet and the fencing is still in place around the containers and boats. The question was raised as to the legality of the containers' height which were supposed to be there temporarily.

The Sea Scouts are still fund-raising for their facilities and the building of the new HQ next to the Leisure Centre is still some way away. There is therefore no more news on the skateboard park being moved or the BMX track being restored.

The purpose of the red and white wooden marker posts in Myton Fields and Kingfisher Pools was also questioned.

The Secretary had emailed the Head of Park Service regarding the work at Kingfisher Pools and complained about the sad state of King Henrys Pool which is no longer accessible. A response is still awaited.

A suggestion had been forwarded to the Friends that we champion the cause of a drinking fountain being installed in the park. The response from WDC reflected Health and Safety concerns about Legionella but research has shown that this advice was flawed. The Friends will pursue their request as this would prove of great benefit to all users of the park, especially in this current very hot weather.

The Avon Navigation Trust's proposals to have pleasure boats all along the Avon have been turned down and even WDC refused their proposals.

5. Accounts

The balance in the bank is £71.

6. Membership Fees

It was agreed that Membership Fees would remain the same, i.e. £1 for individual membership and £3 for family membership.

7. Election of Committee

Committee members were willing to stand again and were re-elected en bloc.

8. Traveller Incursions

This item was discussed during the Annual Report.

9. Sea Scout Development

As also discussed during the Annual Report, the Sea Scouts are still fund-raising for their new HQ and boatyard. Residents are pleased that the parking problems appear to have alleviated.

10. Any Other Business

The noise problems from events in the park were discussed and the sound levels at last year's Party in the Park were measured with an app. as in the red zone. Myton Road residents wrote to WDC complaining and the Friends have requested that this year's event is monitored by a sound level meter to ensure that the sound is kept to an acceptable level.

The day before the recent Pub in the Park 3-day event, loud music was playing during rehearsals and the Friends complained about the sound level. The private organisers sent a sound level technician to monitor the levels to ensure they were acceptable. As it happened, the music levels **were** turned down and the Pickard Street area did not experience excessive nuisance. However, the sound rose up towards the Myton Road residents and apparently it did constitute a nuisance there

The Myton Road residents and the Friends wrote to WDC regarding the notices at every entrance of the park displaying the bye-laws, in particular one stating "must not obstruct, disturb or annoy another person". In addition, because of past incidents of noise and disturbance, WDC has erected notices in Myton Fields instructing park users to "please be considerate of residents". We are awaiting a response to this.

We also stated that we would welcome an opportunity to take part in WDC's "thorough post-event review, taking feedback from residents, businesses and other council departments". The Friends were not consulted about these events and would like to be involved in any discussion about such future events.