

Friends of the Moor AGM 8 March 2017  
7.00 pm, Knutsford Town Council Meeting Rooms

---

“Discover what we do and volunteer to keep it green”

**1 Welcome** by Chair Debbie Jamison.

Committee present were Michele Hammond ( Vice-Chair), Jan McCappin (Secretary), Stewart Gardiner (Treasurer), Peter Russell, Adam Keppel-Garner, Jane Cartmel, Jacque Grinham, Andrew Malloy. Also present were Roger Barnes, Peter Holt, Louise Gresty

**2 Apologies for absence** Ruth Morgan and Doug Christie (CEC ANSA) Val Burlison (CEC Partnerships) Sarah Flannery, Julie Tempest (Knutsford Hosts and Knutsford Promenades) Sonia Amos, Clive Heath (Lions), Kevin Griffiths (Friends of the Heath), Sgt Kelly Rooke ,PC Andrew Roberts, James Power ( Knutsford Town Council appointed representative), Val Dawson

**3 Chair’s report**

As Chair I’m expected to fulfil this part of the Agenda, the Chair report. I want to emphasise that it is just that, me reporting on the activities of the committee over the last year, that only happened because we all work together. Thank you everybody for sticking with it and taking a share of the load. Please view our yearbook on the display & online via our website.

We aim to meet once a month (not August or December 2016) on the second Wednesday and every meeting bar one was quorate, that requires 5 people to be present at least two must be officers. We have tried to capture the main public facing activities in our yearbook and communicate via twitter, facebook, web, newspapers and posters.

The highlights of the year have to be the opening of the Play area and the autumn Litter pick that involved the Fire & Rescue teams in the Moor Pool. We also received a grant for outdoor games from Cheshire East Partnerships community grants scheme. A new event run by Knutsford Promenades drew a big crowd and lots of community support. As did the Remembering Knutsford facebook group Mayday gathering. This alongside our mega Playday and annual Birdwatch. The latest improvements have been the new wooden bins.

We have continued to have good communications with our partners Knutsford Town Council, Knutsford Police beat team and ANSA, who do a fantastic job maintaining the Moor so special thanks to Doug, Rick & Gary, Steve & Simon.

This all led to a Green Flag award for the 8th Year running. Next year we will focus on completing a new Management Plan, that will outline the maintenance and development projects for the future. Something I have personally been seeking for a number of years. This has been made possible by ANSA receiving additional Park Development funds from CEC and appointing extra staff.

This rewrite will require us to go out to the wider public for approval. Some ideas have already been put forward for in comments to the Neighbourhood plan survey. For the

record, oft quoted ideas for a café, bandstand, outdoor gym, skatepark, mini-golf, car park!!. Jacquie & Jan represent us on the Environment Open spaces working group.

Please be assured that on my watch we intend to stay true to our aim speaking up for Knutsford Moor, keeping it as a green, clean, safe place for everyone to enjoy some part of. The continuing priority area for improvement is to tackle the surface water with some drainage improvements. Cheshire East have requested quotes from ANSA for short term works and investigation prior to a more longer term solution. That by the way highlights the world we live in. It's no longer ring the one person from the Council, it takes many!!

If we want to carry out the events that we have done in the past to promote the use of the Moor, then I need around 4 new members to take the lead on maybe one initiative. Otherwise we will seemingly be quieter, working on the new Management plan- so crucial to the ongoing success of the Moor and giving guidance to the next generation of Friends. This will be my last year as Chair and I would encourage anyone to come forward at anytime , don't wait, and express an interest in taking up the role.

#### **4 Treasurer's report – accounts attached**

SG presented the annual accounts for the last two years. This being the first time that they covered a calendar year so 2017 AGM is 2016 Jan-DEC!. The closing balance was a healthy £1410.79. The main income came from a CEC Community Grant of £800 , a Waitrose Community Grant of £140, £111 from the Lions Street Fair and a one-off donation of £100 from the Lions. Expenditure included £1500 contribution to Play Area refurbishment, from a KTC award in 2014, £413.24 for Play Day equipment, and £156.24 for Liability Insurance. The accounts notes will be updated by JG re Lions donation & clarify year headings & play day equipment expenditure was to reimburse for community grant .

#### **5 Partners Representatives Reports**

##### **Cheshire East Council/ANSA**

by Ruth Morgan Parks & Recreation Consultant, sent via email presented by MH

I am a relative newcomer to Ansa having only been in post since November. However, I was lucky enough to work on the first Green Flag submission as a Parks Officer with Macclesfield Borough Council. The first visit I made back to The Moor in my current post was on a beautiful winters day which really highlighted its naturalistic characteristics and what makes the Moor so different to many other parks and open spaces in the borough. I was thrilled to see that there have been significant developments in the park over the years and that, thanks to the commitment from the Friends of the Moor and Parks Officers, and with the guidance of a solid management plan, these developments have enhanced the character of the park and provided facilities that reflect the needs of the local community. The partnership between the Friends of the Moor and Ansa (on behalf of Cheshire East Council) is invaluable in ensuring the sustainability of existing and future projects and developments. Despite the challenges that we all face protecting our parks, these are exciting times for the Moor. This year we will be working together to assess and celebrate the progress we have made so far and will be developing a new management plan to guide where we go in the future.

**Knutsford Police** Representatives were unable to attend, but FOTM and the public were advised to ring 101 to report any antisocial behaviour or damage seen, so that the incident can be logged. This will help when assigning police officers to the area.

## **6 Election of Committee Officers**

**Chair** – Debbie Jamison, **Vice-Chair** Michelle Hammond, **Secretary** Jan McCappin were re-elected unopposed. **Treasurer** – S G had tendered his resignation from the position of Treasurer. Jacquie Grinham was proposed and elected unanimously.

## **7 Election of Committee ( Maximum 8 members)**

The following were elected to the Committee unanimously:-, Adam Keppel-Garner, Peter Russell, Andrew Malloy, Stewart Gardiner Louise Gresty. A KTC representative will be nominated by the KTC for 2017/8 currently Cllr James Power.

## **8 AOB**

DJ invited more people to join the committee to help speak up for the Moor and encourage its use.

We have outdoor games to use and lend to other community groups

Events to come Include:- **Litterpick** on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 11 am to noon Equipment will be provided and will be available for loan to other groups. SG has done a risk assessment, **Rotary Jog** – FOTM will provide a team (DJ AM MH) and a gazebo, to be manned, will be set up first on the car park, then by the shelter, where outdoor games will be provided. **Playday** will probably be scaled down this year. There may be involvement with the music festival in June..

Neighbourhood Plan Environment and Open Spaces WG – JG and JM are our reps The Moor and Heath are included and Dog Wood will be. Discussions will cover green corridors, open space access, protection, enhancement and any new development planned. There will be liaising with the Getting Around working group & sports & leisure which DJ leads as a resident .(MH hopes for a cycleway linking the Moor to Tatton.)

PR suggested pond clean-up a future agenda item, and involving high school students in FOTM project like litter picks.

MH has asked RoSPA to review safety issues near the Scout hut – paths, lighting, cars and car parking and the River Lily waterway. Scout Fundraising is at 70K.

**9 Next Committee meetings.** April 19<sup>th</sup>, May 10, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, Knutsford Town Council offices.