

Friends of the Moor AGM, Wednesday 16 March 2018
7.00 pm, Knutsford Town Council Meeting Rooms
“Moor Ideas for the Future”

1 Welcome by Chair Debbie Jamison.

Committee members present were Debbie Jamison (retiring Chair), Adam Keppel-Green, Jan McCappin (Secretary), Jacquie Grinham (Treasurer); Michele Hammond, Peter Russell, Stewart Gardiner, Also present were Rick Braddock, Nick Storey, Kevin Griffiths (Friends of the Heath)

2 Apologies for absence Ruth Morgan (CEC ANSA) i James Power (Knutsford Town Council appointed representative), Andrew Malloy, PCO representatives,

3 Approval of last year's minutes The 2017 minutes had been circulated and were approved.

4 Chair's report by DJ

Thank you to everyone for attending tonight and caring for the Moor. In this report, it is my intention to give you an overview of what the Friends achieved last year and some indication of what the future holds. At the AGM last year, I set out the aims of working on a new management plan, improving the drainage and involving more people so that we can continue with our mission to provide enjoyment for all on the Moor. Please take the time to look at our yearbook on our website, and we have some printed copies. We had a busy year, and I need to summarise to get through this in reasonable time.

COMMUNICATIONS The website was redesigned and launched in September but has had a major content update recently (thanks to AKG). Thanks go to AM for the Facebook page, and to all members for their Tweets. The Knutsford Guardian has printed various articles throughout the year and in the Knutsford Directory July/ August edition we had a community page covering our work. Thanks also to the Rotary Club and Toft Creative for our page in the Rotary Jog brochure.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT includes new wooden litterbins (15) with still a daily collection. There are new drainage pipes to reduce flooding over the paths and to deal with safety issues arising from deep pools (This work request started in 2016 and was completed in January 2018. That is how long things take).

GRANTS & DONATIONS (See the Accounts/Treasurer report) I'd like to do some thank yous here, to Manchester Airport (for AKGs wildlife information signs), Waitrose (via JG), Albis (a donation celebrating their 50th year) and to a family who donated a seat in memory of their son. At the end of the year, we were approached by Co-op Community Matters. (Thanks to MH for doing the application with JG and JM) To help us, please could you nominate us as your chosen community cause – we are linked to Parkgate store and have received £375 to date which will go towards bespoke seating in and nearby the shelter.

EXTRA HELPERS 3 boys volunteered to work with us from April to July, working towards their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award.

REACHING OUT FOTM was represented on the Knutsford Town Council Neighbourhood Plan, by JG and JM on the Environment and Open Spaces Working Group and Heath WG and by DJ on Sports & Leisure. Thank you to James Power. our Councillor link back to the Environment Committee of KTC, where we appreciate their support on Highways issues such as. Moorside Road, Lilybridge, Lighting, CCTV, along with the Police.

EVENTS- Rotary Club's Knutsford Jog 2017– Some members joined the jog; we also had community games set out. We decided not to go ahead with the **Playday**, as some committee members were on holiday and we didn't have a 'project leader'. There was a lot of interest in **Art on the Moor** but this had to go indoors because of the weather. We hope organisers will try again. Thank you to MH for organising **the Green Flag raising** with the 1st Knutsford Beavers on the Moor .In January, it was our **10th Annual RSPB birdwatch** – Thankyou to JM & Knutsford Ornithologists. I have recently been invited to **the 5th Knutsford Apache & Navajo groups** to talk about the Moor and promote our Litterpick. They gave us a donation of £24 & I have bought some new magnets for the noticeboard. The Beavers also did some posters for us. For **#GBSpringClean** we joined up again with Friends of the Heath and Knutsford residents in Over Ward to have three community clean ups over one weekend. We also attended the Annual Town Council meeting, Lions Centennial Fair and July Makers Market, as part of our survey 'Moor ideas for the next 10 years'.

GREENFLAG MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTION PLAN with CEC ANSA Thanks go to Ruth Morgan for being our link Officer. The joint objective is to refresh our information and the plans going forward.(Work started on this immediately after our AGM last year). Also thanks go to Doug Christie, Stuart Barber, Steve Cooper, Rick and Gary for the Moor maintenance.

The MOOR IDEAS SURVEY was open for comments from April to September. The draft report was considered by the FOTM Committee and ANSA in Oct/Dec ,with the final version agreed in January and now published on our website. Broadly this supported the improvements made to the Moor over the years, and the vision that it should be considered as a green open space providing a children's playarea, access paths across the Town and opportunities for informal recreation. I have already mentioned that extra seating and signage, are due for completion this year. It might be that an extra noticeboard is installed. The task for this year's committee will be to consider if any of the ideas should become the next feature or project for the Friends group to progress. The front runner could be argued to be an outdoor gym/ trim trail but any project will require more engagement and support to justify taking further. It will also need a 'project team'. It also started the discussion on how the Moor could link in with Tatton Park and through to the Barncroft at the rear of St Cross Church. This may give us extra room to consider another major feature. In common with other surveys in Town, we need to be thinking more actively about how inclusive the Moor is and what we have to offer for people with disabilities. The survey made 20 recommendations, some already done. Two are the basis for proposals made tonight. - concerning events on the Moor and widening the remit of the Friends to include the Barncroft.

I think that is enough for now, I should also like to thank SG who attends as a resident of the Town but comes in very handy when we need attention from Cheshire East Council. One last one and that is to PR. Along with JM, he is a founder member of the group and he has been a big help on the Survey events, with photographs and as a regular at our monthly

committee meetings , despite it not always being easy for him to get to them. Finally – We have a buzzard (a carving!) coming soon and 5 new picnic tables.

5 Proposal – to continue to refuse to support events that are (1) commercial, (2) involve the supply of alcohol

DJ recommended that FOTM continues to refuse to support commercial private enterprise events including the sale of food on the Moor as it is a public open space. This was agreed unanimously. A byelaw means the Moor is an alcohol free zone; however, the need to be equitable and support well managed events was stressed. However the second proposal was carried 5 to 4.

6 Treasurer’s report – (accounts attached)

The Manchester Airport grant has not yet been spent as the wildlife signage is to be completed. Liability Insurance was low this year, because Playday did not take place.

7 Partners Representatives Reports

Police – Were unable to attend but PCSO Zoe said there had been no reported incidents; this month. She looked forward to attending future meetings.

Knutsford Town Council (Report by Cllr James Power). I wanted to add a huge thank you for all the work you have done and the dedication of Friends of the Moor. As a parent, I use the space on the Moor 3 or 4 times a week and really value the space and the superb work the Friends of the Moor are doing. I know many residents feel the same way. The Moor is a real gem in the heart of the town. Thank you for making it so special. I hope to continue working with you and am open to any requests or suggestions. Many thanks.

AKG reported that the KTC have supported FOTM over 4 matters:-

Lily Bridge – Officers have been looking into options around replacing the bridge, with initial costings, and a report to the Environment Committee meeting in June should progress this. **CCTV**- A temporary CCTV camera , which can be deployed in different locations, should be made available from CEC later in the year. Costings on a permanent CCTV camera are awaited. An update is awaited on upgrading the CCTV camera in the King Street Car Park, to improve visibility of the Moor. **Highways/Lighting** – KTC continue to support FOTM’s requests for improvement of the carriageway on Moorside and speedier repairs to streetlighting on and around the Moor. **Grant Scheme** – KTC’s Community Grant Scheme administered by the Finance Committee can be applied for – those up to £3000 at any time, those over £3000 as part of the Budget Setting.

Cheshire East Council/ANSA Statement from Ruth Morgan. Parks and Recreation Consultant,

Congratulations Friends of the Moor on another successful year. Sincere thanks from ANSA for all your help and support. Friends of the Moor is crucial in helping to steer the course for the Moor, and protecting and developing the park for the benefit of the community, wildlife and visitors from further afield On a personal level too, thank you for your help this year. It has been an immensely busy 12 months for me and your support has been invaluable. A very special thank you to Debbie for her excellent leadership and hard work over the past 3 years, Debbie, we will miss you. Finally, we look forward to working with the new Chair over the next 3 years and continuing a very successful partnership , Many thanks again to you all.

8 Proposal for a new Constitution

AKG drafted and circulated a new Constitution, Although shorter, there are no substantial changes except the removal of the safety aspects (as this is a police issue), inclusion of what happens if the group dissolves; the need to hold at least 4 meetings a year and the inclusion of the Barncroft. It was approved.

Details of membership will be discussed further – how to define members, how to register them, mailing lists. voting rights, and what to do with records under GDPR rules on data protection, coming into force in May, The final version of the Constitution would be proposed for acceptance at the next AGM

9 Consideration of widening the scope/geography of the Group to include the Barncroft

It was unanimously agreed to include the Barncroft with the Moor in future, to provide more room for events and equipment for activities such as a trimtrail.

10 Election of Committee Officers

Chair – Adam Keppel-Green **Secretary** Jan McCappin **Treasurer** Jacquie Grinham were re-elected unopposed.

11 Election to the Committee

The following were elected to the Committee unanimously:- Michele Hammond, Peter Russell, Andrew Malloy, Stewart Gardiner; Louise Gresty. , A KTC representative will be nominated by the KTC for 2018-9 currently Cllr James Power.

12 AOB

J G, on behalf of the Committee, thanked DJ for her sterling work on behalf of the Moor.

PR suggested improvement of the footpath from the Moor towards Tatton. FOTM could work with relevant partners such as TEM and Tatton Park

Comments from attendees included incidents with youths passing through the Moor, the under-reporting of incidents, the need to help bored teenagers by engaging with them and the need to improve lighting, especially near the Scout Hut

9 Next Committee meeting. April 11th. at 7pm, Knutsford Town Council offices.