

# **Friends of the Moor Committee Meeting Weds 8 February 2017, 7.00pm, Knutsford Town Council Meeting Rooms. Minutes 131**

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**Present** Michele Hammond (Vice-Chair), Jan McCappin (Secretary), Stewart Gardiner (Treasurer), Jacquie Grinham, Adam Keppel-Garner, James Power, Quorate (ie 5 committee members, at least 2 officers) Yes - 3 officers, 3 members attended,

**1 Welcome and Apologies for absence** Apologies were received from Debbie Jamison, Andrew Malloy, Peter Russell, Police Sergeant Kelly Rooke (now Johnson) and PCSO Dawber, Val Burlison; Roger Barnes ( KOS)

**2 Moor corner issue (Parking etc)** MH reported to the police a traffic snarl-up on Sunday at the corner of Moorside Road/King Street caused by illegal parking, probably mainly by residents of the new housing development and visitors to the Makers Market. A decision on whether to have double yellow lines here was put forward on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, for consultation between 15 February and 9<sup>th</sup> March. Comments should be sent to Simon Wallace or Natali Maltese at CEC. MH is contacting them as a concerned resident rather than FOTM representative, for although this area is outside FOTM's remit, the Scout Hut is affected. (MH has also contacted RoSPA.

**3 FOTM AGM** Committee members agreed to hold the FOTM AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the Council Offices.

## **4 Review of events**

**RSPB Birdwatch on the Moor, Saturday 28 January and Heath 29 January.** Despite rain before the event, the Moor birdwatch was successful, with fewer bird numbers (171) but a similar number of species to 2014 and 2015 (31). 14 Shovelers were seen on the Pool. Attendees included members of Knutsford Ornithological Society, who FOTM would like to thank for help in alerting members to the presence of birds by their calls and then identifying them. JM also attended the first Friends of the Heath birdwatch on the Sunday. JM emailed FOTM's results to the RSPB, and a joint FOTM/FOTH article with photos were sent to the Knutsford Guardian, also informing them of the upcoming AGM and litterpicks. The FOTM event photos, taken by a member of KOS, were omitted in error. MH would write a press release to the Guardian about the AGM and could include one birdwatch photo'

## **Upcoming events**

**Litterpick** – 11<sup>th</sup> March 10.30 to noon, JM would send SG a proforma of the Risk Assessment for checking and amending. MH was willing to take any bags to the tip, but ANSA would be contacted to provide back-up.

**Rotary Jog 19 March, 9.30 to noon. Including preparation.** DJ, A K-G and MH could be joined by AM to make up a FOTM team. MH volunteered to provide a gazebo, which JM could man, to inform people about the Play Area and act as ambassadors for both the Rotary Club and FOTM. It was suggested games like jenga could be made available

**Lions Centenary 29 May.** Instead of a Street Fair, events and stalls will be held on the Big Heath. JM will check on how to book, pay for and organise a stall.

**Playday** – there may be problems with organising this as some FOTM members are unavailable. It will be discussed at a future meeting.

**5 Cycle passage across the Moor** A letter was received by the Guardian expressing forcefully the perceived risks posed by cyclists cycling across the Moor. MH expressed the need to encourage cycle paths, and cycling to Tatton and stressed most cyclists behaved responsibly; other FOTM members thought a risk did exist. There had been a noticeboard erected saying no cycling - cyclists should dismount and push their bikes, but it had been removed by persons unknown. MH would write back to the author of the letter, saying Friends groups are planning to review this policy at a future meeting.

**6 Treasurers report.** SG had attended the January meeting. The 2016 accounts paperwork was being modified because the FOTM financial year is now different. JG is auditing them. Because of computer problems, SG had been unable to provide the figures for approval at this meeting, but would circulate them by email for approval before the AGM..

**7 CEC/ANSA** The Management Plan is being rewritten. MH met with Ruth Morgan to discuss a number of ideas including a path, possibly woodchip, from the Scout Hut near the fence, for parents and children, or better lighting. A site visit was suggested. Flooding of the road was mentioned – SG said although gullies were cleared regularly, road sweeping had not been done, so the gullies quickly clogged with leaves. Now the problem has been identified, sweeping and clearing is now combined. Bins have been set up but this was not particularly well organised, with bins not positioned according to the site map as discussed eg having a bin near the entrance to the Dog Wood path. MH would write to ANSA.

**8 Communications** A K-G has completed the Yearbook and circulated it to members, and to the CEC for the Green Flag. The webpage and facebook are being updated. Posters and information on future events will be put on the noticeboard.

**9 KTC Environment Committee report** – DJ had submitted a report and received the following responses. **Lighting** – response times will not increase but the priority will. Heritage style lights are a low priority, behind Legh Road and the Town Centre as the Moor's original lights were not heritage style. Payment for **picnic tables/seating** was turned down as the Council thought it was CECs responsibility. **Lily Bridge** will be discussed at the next committee meeting, encouraged by JP. (MH suggested the possibility of a competition for architecture students). Delivery of the **Commemorative tree for Vivien Davies** had been delayed, but it should be coming next week. AK-G will inform members about the planting ceremony, John Davies will be invited, as well as the Mayor. Jonathan Farber may take a film. **CCTV** – before agreeing to a new camera, or moving an existing one, safety research or a survey should be done, and alternative ways of dealing with the problems of vandalism etc discussed. Police Sergeant Kelly Johnson should be contacted. **Town Council Budget** – longterm projects may not be funded next year.

**10 Report from police.** The police were not represented at the meeting

**11 Approval of previous minutes and matters arising** Minutes were amended (SG did attend), and then approved.

**12 AOB** A Music Festival, with performances by local artists at different existing venues in Knutsford would be discussed at the KTC.

**13 Next meeting** - AGM - 8 March.