

Friends of the Moor Committee Meeting Weds 11 January 2017, 7.00pm, Knutsford Town Council Meeting Rooms. Minutes 130

Present Debbie Jamison (Chair), Michele Hammond (Vice-Chair), Jan McCappin (Secretary), Jacquie Grinham, Jane Cartmel, Adam Keppel Garner, PCSO Mike Dawber Quorate (ie 5 committee members, at least 2 officers) Yes - 3 officers, 3 members attended, Guest Kevin Griffiths (Friends of the Heath)

1 Welcome and Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Stewart Gardiner (Treasurer), Andrew Malloy, James Power, Peter Russell, Police Sergeant Kelly Rooke (now Johnson), Val Burlison

2 Police report by PCSO Dawber

There was little to report. PCSO Dawber said Fisher German reported that an 8 foot post with a sign set up for Tatton Estates Management near Hillside about the private woodland and SSSI had gone missing over Christmas. Police had checked the Moor area and found the pole. They had given advice to TEM about setting a permanent post in concrete. (DJ said this area was outside FOTM's remit),

DJ had found tablets, possibly drugs, in a bag on the Moor and reported it to the police.(Any information relevant to the police, especially concerning drugs should be reported on 101, preferably when the incident is occurring. Senior officers will assess the incidents).

It was frequently found that nuisance was caused by people from out of town, without a criminal past in Knutsford. However, police had found that some were known to have caused trouble elsewhere eg in Stretford. This is changing the way the police are dealing with them.

A resident had reported problems with parking and littering off Moorside Road, but as it is an unadopted road, police cannot act.

The question of support for CCTV has been under discussion for a long time. Knutsford Town Council sought a security review from CEC to assess if there is another answer to the problem. A team will review this shortly and report to the Town Council who will then see if KTC will finance the annual costs of CCTV. It was thought strategic planning was necessary with all those involved speaking together. KR should be included in the loop, especially to identify the hotspots.

It was decided the FOTM meeting notes concerning CCTV should be sent to Sgt Kelly Johnson.

PC Jim Stone, PCSO Gary Fulton, and possibly other PCSOs hope to attend the Birdwatch on 28 January.

3 Upcoming events

RSPB Birdwatch on the Moor Saturday 28 January 11 to noon

FOTM through JM and AKG, had arranged this event (now in its ninth year), with representatives from Knutsford Ornithological Society. Friends of the Heath had contacted FOTM about having their own birdwatch on the Sunday. AKG would produce a joint poster and JM would notify the Guardian Whats On and Knutsford Directory. MH would notify the Scouts. Invitations would be sent to members of FOTH, FOTM, Hosts, Lions and Scibar and MH would contact the Scouts. JM would update the Moor Risk Assessment and briefing produced by DJ for 2016, and send the former to KOS and FOTM, with an alphabetical list of

birds previously seen. Copies would go to Friends of the Heath as a basis for their own event.

Attendees would meet at a set point for a briefing - The Shelter on the Moor, the Interpretation Board on the Heath. They would be split into groups, each with at least one KOS member and FOTM member, Groups would then walk along separate routes, and meet after an hour to consolidate results, which would then be sent to the RSPB. A joint report with photos could be sent to the Guardian and put on FOTMs and FOTHs websites.

Bird signage

Manchester Airport has given money for 3 A2 signs, **Water Birds** (with feed advice), **Other Birds**, and **General**, including trees, plants, possibly animals like bats. DJ has a list of plants which were put in the boggy area, Kevin G a list of plants from a survey, and MH a list of trees. The final selected lists should be sent to Ruth Morgan for advice.

Litterpick

Although Tidy Britain has a national event from 3-5 March, it was decided to have the FOTM litter pick on **Saturday 11th March, from 10.30 am to 12.30am**, nearer to the Rotary Club Jog. An organiser is being sought. SG volunteered to do the paperwork, including a risk assessment. It is unlikely the Fire Brigade will be able to help this time.

It was noted that the open skip on the Batley car park was a possible source of rubbish in the pool. (DJ has photographs) JM would write to Bill Batley, referring to the litter pick and asking if anything could be done to prevent items being taken from the skip and dumped.

Rotary Jog 19 March

DJ, MH and AKG will be joining the jog as a Friends of the Moor team. MH will provide a gazebo for leaflets and games like jenga will be made available on the Moor. Preparation will be from 9.30 to 12, and FOTM members available could inform people about the play area and act as ambassadors for both the Moor and Rotary Club.

Lions Centenary 29 May

This year the "Street Fair" will be on the Heath, and stalls will be available to community groups.

AGM in March

This will be discussed at the next meeting

4 Treasurers report (SG)

The yearly record has been difficult because the dates covered have changed. (There is currently about £1400 in the account). The Manchester Airport grant has not yet been received. KTC approve FOTM spending but need proof of the £1500 to Kompan. They sent out an invoice and FOTM sent the cheque and have a receipt.

An official audit is unnecessary but JG will check the bank records. The accounts will be presented at the February meeting. SG will be resigning as Treasurer at the AGM, due to pressure of work, so a new Treasurer will be sought.

5 CEC/ANSA

The new named contact is Ruth Morgan,(who works under Elaine Webster). Issues concerning ground maintenance should be emailed to her, cc Doug Christie. RM will be doing the Green Flag application in early February. FOTM will be doing the Management Plan . Old material (2010 statement and yearbook) is still being included. AKG has completed an up to date yearbook and after Michele H has seen it, it will be sent by DJ to RM, along with a new list of thanks, Jog photo and statement by DJ. RM will see MH separately concerning the Scout Hut area.

Drainage problems – were reported over a year ago and FOTM thought it could be a blocked drain issue. Although not a maintenance issue, the Moor is a CEC asset. A quote should be obtained for putting drains in the boggy areas this spring as a short-term measure. The Management Plan will consider the necessity for more work.

Bins – at first, 2 or 3 wooden bins were promised, then plastic. The metal ones on the promenade are now rusting. DC will consider these again after the drainage problem is dealt with.

Safety inspection due in September has now been done and the report is due in February. FOTM will get a copy as It is needed for liability insurance,

Park audit – Outstanding issues are the pads on the gates, a tree survey and grass seeding in spring. Issues dealt with are the snowberry cut-back and fence post replacement by the Moor pool (however more now need replacing). It was stressed that the “brass rubbing” plaques inset in some of the posts should be retained

Flooding on Moorside Road – This is pushing car parking further into the road, limiting access. Gully and road repairs are needed –patch repairing rather than full surfacing.

Play area has a new sign with logos of funders, the Hotline no (0300 1235011 option 3 Mon-Fri daytime, Outside hours emergency no (0300 123 5025) or online reporting. A case reference number will be given to those reporting incidents.

6 KTC Environment Committee items –

FOTM reports are on the KTC Environment Committee Agenda every 3 months. The next is 6 February. Some meetings have been inquorate, so the October report was not fully considered. Items included lighting, the Lily bridge, CCTV, and monies for picnic benches from the Environment and Open Spaces budget.

Lighting – After contact from DJ the priority was raised . Heritage lighting was recommended as the Moor is in the town conservation area. It was noted that lighting from the Barncroft tunnel to the Scout Hut corner was poor. Michele H was particularly worried about the possibility of children slipping into the River Lily near this corner.

Tree commemorating Vivien Davies – This is on order from Bartletts and is due to be planted in late January or February. John D will be kept informed

Lily Bridge -. Costain were originally willing to replace this if a design was available but now will not. AKG and Lisa of KTC could go to Highways for advice and monies sought from the Environment Committee budget. HLF funding could be sought - a design competition had been suggested. A competition for students was also suggested but they need a design brief. It needsto consider accessibility for people with disabilities and nearby disabled parking.

As it is a public right of way, the bridge cannot be removed, but SG said it could be diverted. The wall at this point is also a problem AKG should check who is responsible for it.

7 Approval of previous minutes and matters arising

Previous minutes were approved by Michele H, seconded by AKG. New members would be sought at events like the birdwatch, and especially the AGM. Safeguarding officer – still to be recruited.

Barton Wilmore plans (Crown Estates) – A letter was received, DJ fed back comments. A consultation is due and afterwards the exhibition board information can be seen on their website.

106 monies could be available but FOTM considered support should be given to play areas nearer the new housing, plus paths/cycleways from the new housing to the Moor and Tatton. DJ suggested this could be brought up as planning applications are made. Green corridors are supported and there should be connections between FOTM and the Neighbourhood Plan Open Spaces and Getting Around working groups.

9 AOB

Knutsford Academy and citizens programme - K academy students are interested in this – some have already been involved in litter picking.

Building on King Street car park has been put forward by Ken Brodie and a consultant paper is due, FOTM members expressed concern. There will be a KTC meeting on 28 February and FOTM have been invited to put their views,

Town awards – invitations for nominations have been put out today.

11 Next meetings - 8 Feb and AGM - 8 March.

A subgroup to discuss Playday could meet in April, DJ gave apologies for the February meeting