

Minutes of the trustees of Carbrooke Millennium Green 14th April 2023

Present; Trevor Carlin, Nathan DeFew, Edit Davies, Jo Naylor, Clare Talbot, Will Durgan, Jerry Darby.

Also in attendance;

Graham Redfern Carbrooke Parish Council

Helen Crane Breckland District Council

One parishioner

Apologies for absence; None

Minutes for last meeting 13th Jan 2023 approved.

Matters arising;

Felling of broken tree to be postponed until Sept to avoid disturbing any nesting birds

Tree planting of Queens memorial and replacement of Bob Buscall memorial trees completed and trees thriving. All sapling trees received from the Queens canopy project have been planted. Thanks to Nathan, Lucy and Darren.

Beer/music event in the summer will no longer involve the green site due to power difficulties.

Chair/Secretary report;

JD gave a presentation (attached) to the Parish council Annual meeting on 11th April

JD represented the trustees as part of the History and a heritage video project on 12th April

The housing development on the old garage site have accessed the green to locate and connect water to the new properties. Anglian water now have to complete the work and the area will be restored as was. The remaining section of hedge behind the containers has been cut by the developers.

Treasurers report;

Nathan DeFew reported that the current bank balance stood at £8947, with few outgoings. Income was from the Breckland lottery and grant monies. Total income for the year was £6917.92 and outgoings £2104.16

NatWest Bank transfer has hit a problem as the original bank account opened with Barclays was an account for a club or society not a charity. The existing account is now suspended although transactions can still be made and a new correct Barclay account needs to be set up. JD needs to update the Charity Commission with formal trustee names to match bank identity. All trustees signed the new application documentation and ND, JD and ED will act as signatory. It was unanimously agreed to stay with Barclays once this is completed. Thanks was given to ND for his boundless patience.

Details of potential Woodchipper for purchase using the Breckland District Council's grant money were discussed with the expert advice of Alex Talbot. It was agreed to spend £1900 on the superior product.

A tree safety survey will be conducted courtesy of a grant from the Parish Council.

Anglia water will carry out the disconnection but no rebate for historical payments.

ND presented JD with a cheque for Dawe estates for work done on the green as part of the Breckland council inspiring communities project.

ND is investigating quotes for the greens insurances to obtain the best value.

Maintenance;

JD to contact Paul Colley regarding the grass mowing schedule. Community payback workers have been on site most weeks through March and will revert back to twice monthly. They will be a valuable asset and we need to keep them busy. All

trustees need to report any work arising that can be done by the workers to JD.
The trustees discussed some future projects for them including;
Small maze, mowing playground and orchard, removing tree defenders, mole hills,
filling holes, scrub benches, paint picket fence around play area.
JD to add WD to the Community Payback liaison WhatsApp group.
ND was asked as part of his insurance investigation to check on the liability
cover for volunteers who are not trustees.
WD suggested we need to review our key holder list.

Playground inspections.

No issues reported for the trustees. All agreed to keep monitoring.

Fundraising;

We have had good success from grant applications and we all need to report back
any potential funding that may be available.
Breckland lottery funds are static at 18 supporters and £754pa need to promote
on social media.
The application for the 23/24 insurance grant is logged with the Parish Council.

BDC Inspiring Communities project.

Large Maze work almost complete, wild flower seed drilling has been held up by
the extremely wet March and April but is in hand.

Tesco bags of help Nature trail project;

No news from Tesco yet on how much we will receive and project on hold until the
budget is known.

Kings Coronation.

The trustees agreed for ND to purchase bunting up to the value of £100 to
decorate the green for this historic event.

Social Media;

It was agreed to be more proactive on our Facebook page with regular posts of
activities and items of interest. JD and JN have admin privileges but cannot
update the trustees info this remains the privilege of the originator.

Village hall committee representative;

The Village hall committee would like as part of their constitution have a
member from the green. They would not have to attend all the meetings. ND agreed
to be the prime contact with JD as deputy.

AOB

JN suggested we should invest in a weatherproof notice board exclusively for
green information.

Date of next meeting Friday 14th July 2023 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Parish annual meeting notes;

Parish Meeting 11 April 2023

Carbrooke Millennium Green annual report

We have seen a few changes of trustees, now 8 as follows.

Jerry Darby Chair/Secretary

Nathan DeFew Treasurer

Will Durgan

Edit Davies

Helen Gore
Trevor Carlin
Clare Talbot
Jo Naylor

Easier year to manage with no Covid restrictions. The year saw a severe drought which impacted on the flora and fauna. Benefits were less grass cutting and we didn't lose water from the wildlife pond one of the few ponds which didn't complete dry up.

We have continued to cut less grass and created pathways through the lower field allowing wildflowers to flourish.

We have planted a commemorative tree in honour of the late Queen and replaced the Bob Buscall tree both courtesy of the PC. We have also planted several native trees courtesy of the Queens Canopy initiative.

Following donations for a memorial bench for a Carbrooke resident and regular user of the green this was installed at the front of the wood.

We were successful in two Tesco bags of help grant applications. We have used the money from the first to further restore the pond and the second money yet to be confirmed will go towards a wild life information board trail around the site.

We have successfully won grant funding from the Breckland PC Green initiative schemes. One is well in progress, restoring the wild flower meadows and the large children's maze. The second was funding to purchase a wood chipper to reduce the burning of prunings and generate a sustainable supply of wood chip for the paths. Dawe estates have been very helpful with the former project and have also helped with hedge cutting which was beyond the abilities of the volunteers.

We have been able to engage with the Community Payback project from January and have been very grateful for their help with the more heavy lifting. We have a workforce of around 7/10 people fortnightly and this will enable us to be more ambitious with projects. This will greatly enhance the core of volunteers we currently have to call on. We are grateful to the village hall for allowing us to use the toilets on work days.

We are trying to engage more with social media to show everyone what we are doing and elicit feedback. The usage of the green is always growing particularly with the increasing population of Carbrooke and neighbouring parishes. The school continues to use the green for forest school and we are keen to maintain a dialogue.

We have engaged with wildlife agencies who have given advice where required, attending pond maintenance workshops and had local visits. We are pleased we have a breeding pair of barn owls who are being monitored regularly.

Money is always tight for us to achieve our ambitious plans and we are always looking for grant streams we can tap into. We are again grateful to the Parish Council for their continued moral and financial support especially around our insurance without which we couldn't function