

Friends of Emroyd

Improving Our Local Environment

NEWSLETTER 19

MAY 2017

NEXT WORK SESSION -

6pm on Tuesday 9 May 2017 – meeting at Middlestown Cemetery gates. We look forward to seeing as many of you as are available to come along and join in.

MIDDLESTOWN GALA – SATURDAY 13 MAY 2017 – the Friends will be having a stall at the Gala again this year, so please come along, introduce yourselves and have a chat about the planned developments for Emroyd.

Here are the notes from the AGM on 10 April 2017 -

Notes of Annual General Meeting

Monday 10 April 2017 at 7.00pm at Albion House, Middlestown

Present: see attached attendance list

1. Apologies

Chery Parker
Gareth Pelzer
John Smales

2. Chair's Annual Report

LW began by dedicating the meeting to the memory of John Newsome. John had been instrumental in setting up the Friends of Emroyd and in encouraging the Parish Council to undertake improvements there. She expressed sadness that he had not lived to see the improvements which were now taking place.

She listed the work that had been undertaken over the last twelve months including: cleaning the pond, creating the viewpoint and memorial seat for JN, regular litter and balsam picking, tree management, wild flower planting, the management of the fern glade area and assistance with managing the Triangle. She thanked everyone who had contributed to the work sessions.

The Chair also referred to the work done by Trish Hattersley/Sue Earnshaw and Ron Aspinall with regard to the grant application for the 1st phase of the track improvements. The application had been accepted and a response from SUEZ was expected at the end of the month.

LW referred to the Parish Council's war memorial project for which memorial designs were being discussed in Development Group. To help progress it had been agreed to set up a small sub-group which would involve others in the Parish who had been undertaking a variety work associated with WWI.

With regard to projects for the coming year, LW referred to the anticipation of obtaining grant funding for Phase 1. If successful this would be a major step forward. She invited comment on the meadowland area which currently was being kept short and would be the subject of continued monitoring and discussion in association with the memorial proposals, which included the Friends contribution of a horse memorial seat made from horse-shoes.

Going forward into 2017, the Chair also referred to the continuing need for management activities such as litter and balsam picking and woodland management including the completion of a woodland management plan to provide strategic guidance. She also asked for comments from the meeting on the success of the wildflower trial area and on improvements around the pond, and said she expected to see positive effects this year from the Friends' balsam picking efforts last year.

The Friends would encourage and support the activities of Highfield School in the Triangle and Aspire (Conservation Volunteers) both there and throughout the wood, particularly the hedge laying along the Avenue.

The Chair also asked for views on communications with the public. Most people felt everything was being done that could be done with communication through the Newsletter, Coxley News and the Wakefield Express.

RA thanked LW for her excellent, enthusiastic leadership over the last year.

3. Treasurer's Report

TH circulated a financial statement for the group. The Group had spent the money received from last year's Gala, leaving a balance of £275. She noted that the horse memorial seat would cost £150.

4. Current Grant Application

As per Chair's report.

5. Memorials

The situation with the Memorials was evolving as per the Chair's report. Comments were made on the wetness of the meadowland in the corner

where the horse memorial was currently proposed. Yvonne Smith also suggested that a location nearer the cemetery might be preferable. She agreed to be part of the new Memorial Group being established by the Parish Council.

6. Future Activities

The work session planned for the 9th May was discussed, with balsam picking being suggested as the main activity.

It was noted that the pond area was being used by local youngsters as a place to meet and more thought to this area may be required. Provision of litter bins was suggested by Paul Megson and Andy Nicholls suggested more interpretive activities involving outside experts.

The possibility of expanding the number of bird boxes within the wood was also suggested.

Other suggestions were development of Facebook Page and publication of handout explaining how people could contribute through their own actions – litter/balsam picking, path clearing etc.

7. Representation at Gala

The meeting was informed of the date of the Gala - 13th May - and volunteers were sought to man the stand. RP suggested bringing some CDs for sale to encourage people to the stand. RA to co-ordinate

8. Management Committee

The existing Management Committee was re-elected to office (see attached).

Election of Management Committee

The following were nominated and agreed as the Management Group

Chair	Linda Webster
Secretary	Ron Aspinall
Treasurer	Trish Hattersley
Members:	Simon Pickering, Roz Perrin, Andy Nicholls, Yvonne Smith, Bernadette Feather

Attendance List

Ron	Aspinall
Linda	Webster
Bernadette	Feather
Trish	Hattersley

Paul	Megson
Vicky	Mann
Andrew	Nicholls
Roz	Perring
Simon	Pickering
Yvonne	Smith
Linda	Webster
Peter	Webster