



**The notes from the meeting of the Open Spaces Project Group held in All Saints Church Garden Room, Gurnard on Monday 13 February 2017 at 6.30 pm.**

**PRESENT: Councillors: Fuller and McKean**

**Community Representatives:** Martin Bilson (Chair), Steve Benstead, Terry Benstead, Georgina Austin, Jenny Schofield, Doreen and Ellis Gant.

### **123 AGM of the Friends of Cockleton Meadow**

- i) The Chairman of the Open Spaces Project Working Group welcomed people to the first AGM of the Friends of Cockleton Meadow.
- (ii) The Aims and Objectives of the group were drafted. The Parish Clerk provided a draft wording for members to discuss.

“To manage the open space known as Cockleton Meadow on behalf of Gurnard Parish Council. To encourage both wildlife and native species to thrive for residents and visitors to enjoy.”

Members agreed with the statement which can be used when applying for further grants.
- (iii) The constitution which was formally adopted by the Open Spaces Working Group was circulated to all members for their comments. Everyone was happy with the contents.
- (iv) Members voted for the officer positions which were all agreed unopposed.

Chairman	Martin Bilson
Vice- chairman	Paul Fuller
Secretary	Jane McKean
Treasurer	Sue Waters
General Committee	Steve and Terry Benstead
- (v) Members were updated with the successful funding application from Tesco. Sue advised that £6,000 had been received, with the remainder to be paid when the project is near to completion. This is a capital grant only, so funds will need to be sourced for running costs. It was confirmed that all assets bought with the grant will be the property of the Parish Council and as such will be added to the insurance and Asset Register. There was further discussion about the shed location within the field. Once agreed by the committee, a planning application will be made. Island Roads could be approached for funding – they provide both manpower and materials.
- (vi) The recent vandalism at the site was discussed. It was agreed:

**ACTION:**

  - a) That the new secretary (Jane) writes a letter on behalf of the Friends to all the schools in the area, advising them of the project, the successful funding application, plans for the future and the problem with vandalism. This may help identify the culprits.
  - b) Martin will gain quotations to rebuild the vandalized bridge and walkway.
  - c) That the Police are invited to the next meeting to discuss the investigation.
  - d) An article in the Isle of Wight County Press will be pursued.
- (vii) The wildflower meadow will need cutting during the summer. To improve the wildflowers, it was suggested that the meadow is cut by using scythes and then raked by volunteers. It was:

# **GURNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDED: That another £50.00 Green Gym session is requested to cut and rake the meadow funded by the Parish Council.**

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Monday 13 March at 6.30pm at the home of one of the Committee members.