

Friends Of Brownhills Commons

Monday 10th July 2017
email: bcomsec@mail.com

ATTENDANCE: Douglas Birch MBE, Barrie Poxon, David Jones, Chris Poole, Malcolm Littler, Clive Morris, Ivor Fletcher, Earl Beebee.

APOLOGIES: A.Mayo, M.Hardware.

MINUTES LAST MEETING: Accepted : Chris Poole Seconded : Doug Birch

MATTERS ARISING: Chris mentioned that trees were overhanging the footpath along Chester Road North towards the Rising Sun, making walking very difficult. Clive said he would report to Tim Cleary.

MEMORIAL SHELTER: Barrie told the meeting about the letter sent to Walsall Council and the councillors, asking for action. This was followed up by Councillor Ken Ferguson, resulting with an email from Simon Neilson (Executive Director, Economy & Environment). This email stated that a new quote had been received (£7,100) and the council were “minded” to accept the quote and S106 funding should be made available.

Clive confirmed the above (S106 funding earmarked from the Watermead Grange development). He also stated that Clean & Green would donate a litter bin, and requested a site visit to determine the siting of the double-sided notice board.

Doug mentioned he would like to see a replacement brass plaque, suggesting it should be placed in the Parkside Centre for safe keeping. Clive thought this a good idea.

Barrie said he would liaise with the library staff to agree a site.

COMMONS UPDATE: Barrie said he had contacted Kevin about the state of the common. Kevin’s reply was that as soon as the fallen trees were removed, the pathways would be cleared and repaired. Several weeks later, very little work has taken place. Tim had promise to scrape mulched areas at end of summer. Barrie said that there were a series of excuses. Chris proposed that we

invite Kevin to the next meeting to explain the situation. Doug seconded and Earl suggested that if we weren't satisfied, we should involve the local papers. All agreed to this.

Chris said access to the common was impossible at several points due to excessive nettles, brambles etc. Earl asked why rubbish wasn't taken away asap.

Chris said there was still some rubbish left by travellers, and that they had returned. Clive said a court injunction should be produced tomorrow (11-7-2017).

Chris said that the nature trail was blocked by brambles etc. Clive agreed it was not good enough. Doug said the Beacon Way long distance footpath was not properly maintained.

Barrie also mentioned that he had written to Natural England, asking for clarification of the role and duties of Clean & Green. So far-no reply.

A.O.B. Earl that the toilets in Holland Park were opened for a recent event, but were in a disgusting state. Also there were no lights in the toilets.

Barrie said that Brownhills Local Committee had fought Walsall council to keep the toilets open. Clive stated that the next event in the park (9-8-2017) will be privately run.

Earl said that there must be usable facilities at public events.

Earl also said there should be marshalls to organise car parking, especially to maintain access to the park houses.

Earl also reminded the meeting about the request for a disabled parking space.

Barrie asked Clive if he could report these points. He agreed.

Malcolm asked if there were to be organised health walks. Clive said there weren't enough qualified walk leaders to go round. More volunteers were needed.

Chris asked if there was any news on repairs to The Parade car park. There was no news.

Next Meeting: Monday 11th. September 2017. 7pm. Clean & Green Offices.

