

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parks Committee**  
**Held on 11 June 2013**

**Present:-** Cllrs. A.J. Markley, G. Wilkinson, I. Baty, W. Jefferson. Also Wendy Jameson, Ken Wannop, Anna Malina, Owen Martin, Vicky Hope, Jennifer Rowlands & Jason Dixey.

**484** **Apologies:-** Cllr. S. Graham.

**485** **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. Markley – re: Markley Transport, Carrs Coaches, County Council etc

**486** **Exclusion of Press & Public**

None

**487** **Minutes**

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2013 are agreed and signed as a true record.

**488** **Handyman's Report**

Trees that were meant to be removed within the grounds maintenance depot were not taken down as Ken was not told and containers were left there by Lambert & Gill for 12 months after work had finished. Concerns about the door on the Pagoda – it needs a proper door jamb put in. The contractors will not re-do the door, as the specification has been adhered to. The door/locks have not proved robust enough. The suggestion has been made that a roller shutter door be installed. The door needs to be secure and robust enough to withstand vandalism. Topographical survey of the trees will be done on Thursday. Containers have now gone. Parsons Brinkerhoff will be doing a design for the BMX track and will come back to the Council/Parks committee. The difficulty is to make sure the Council is covered as it needs to be compliant with ROSPA guidelines. A design will be provided by the end of the month for Council approval. Three trees need to come down within the grounds maintenance depot as they are dead. It was recommended they be removed before the topographical survey. They are in danger of falling down and therefore from a health and safety point of view it was agreed that they be felled a.s.a.p. There is documentary proof that the trees are dead within the ecological survey. There are various items which were included on the snagging list which are still in need of attention. Area in front of RNLI toilet block and near putting green needs recovered with soil/turf. Lights are on all the time at the RNLI toilet block and heaters not working. Radar key – lock needs changed at the Edwardian toilets as per RNLI ones to allow use by gents. Pine trees – contractors will be coming next week to replant the young trees that have died.

**489** **Community Engagement Officer's Report**

i) **Report on voluntary work on Green** – A lot of work was done by FOG and STAG prior to Silloth Green Day on the public toilets on Criffel Street and weeding of flower beds etc. They were officially thanked at the last meeting.

ii) **Report on Silloth Green Day** – The event was a great success and the good weather helped. A visitor satisfaction survey was done which was interesting and gives details of where people were from. The results will be useful for HLF and Green Flag. Silloth Green Day will be an annual event. £500 was received from Allerdale and donations from

other sources. Thanks were given to Ken and the lads for all their help. FOG want to work with Ken one day a month. It was suggested that some positive PR is needed in the Buzz to highlight what the lads do, as there was some criticism about work being done by volunteers. A lot of the shrub beds need properly weeded. It was always intended that FOG help with the upkeep of the Green. There is a training budget there to help train volunteers. The unfair criticism in social media needs turned on its head. There was a transitional period between the contract ending and the Town Council taking over the maintenance. It is important that HLF are happy that the Green is being maintained to a satisfactory standard. It is healthy for the Town Council, FOG and maintenance team to work together to keep the Green tidy. A litter pick was organised years ago which was very successful and a lot of litter was collected. FOG want to help and need to do it with the backing of the Council.

iii) **Status of Green Flag Application** – Jane at HLF had said we had until Mat next year to achieve Green Flag status but the dates were not consistent and Anna had to quickly get the application in. The Green will be judged in July of this year. Community garden and signage is not in place but as long as plans are in place this will not be a problem. Maintenance Plan needs revised quickly. It will be a judge from Millom who will be coming to look at the Green. Not had an update on the status of the application yet.

iv) **Update on Community Garden** – Arranged a couple of workshops on 14 July and posters/notices have gone up around town. Jennifer is helping facilitate the workshops and will be getting help from STAG and FOG. Folk will input into the design,

v) **Update on Signage** – Anna, Owen and Wendy have looked at the signage required. The interpretation side needs done i.e. map/text etc. Kathy Reed and Brian Irving from AONB will be able to assist and advise on what to put on the interpretation.

vi) **Outline of umbrella fundraising group** – STAG have approached Cumbria Fundraising consultancy which is a professional organisation. STAG will be the main group, with other events underneath. They want to work together to find pots of money available. Need a 5 year matrix and need to know what events are on. The consultants will be getting paid by the hour by STAG and will find the funding. STAG will be set up as a charity and will be able to claim money back. These consultants used to work for the Calvert Trust and are currently working with Carlisle Cathedral. It could be 18 months before any funding is forthcoming.

vii) **Vandalism** – The matter will be coming back to the Town Council for further consideration but any suggestions would be appreciated. FOG have talked about a Park Watch scheme which is similar to a Neighbourhood Watch. A separate email address would be set up so that people can get in touch, to feed back into the Police and pass information on. It is often difficult to report things when it is a small community because everyone knows everyone else, due to the fear of repercussions. Cllr. Markley will be giving a report to the Cumberland News who is doing an article on vandalism. It was suggested that someone go into the Primary School etc and talk to the kids. Police don't have the manpower to adequately deal with things. There is a group of 12-15 youngsters who are terrorising one local resident.

#### 490 **Silloth Green Project**

**BMW track** – Tree survey will be carried out, design to be done and something back for the July Council meeting.

**Rhododendrons** – Report has come back from Muncaster Castle. Existing trees can be harshly pruned and will take a few seasons to re-grow. It was talked about doing the work in a phased  
our own grounds maintenance team can do. Muncaster Castle do this type of work in their own grounds. Could totally remove the bushes and start again. Needs a decision made as to what can be done. Bring back to the Town Council next month after considering the report.

**491 Friends of the Green - Report**

The bins were full on the Green Day event and it was questioned whether wheelie bins could be purchased to give extra provision. The Vintage Rally provides extra bins in the form of jiffy sacks which are removed after the event. It was questioned who is responsible for emptying of the bins on the Green and whether it would be possible to do an extra collection. It may be possible to get Mark to change his hours to accommodate and get him to do an extra collection when there is an event on the Green, with time off in lieu.

It was also mentioned the problem of Seagulls which are a nuisance and should only be fed on the seafront and not on the Green.

Signed..... Date.....