

The Friends of Alkington Woods

Annual General Meeting 2nd March 2022 Minutes

Attending, Cliff Ivers, Jackie Christy, Jane Al-Attar, Margaret White, Charlie White, Rita Gunson, Marian Carney, Carol Oldham, Rod McDonald, Peter Burrows, Helen Fowell, Charlie Farrell, Clare Farrell, Colin Donald

Apologies, Clr Patricia Dale, Ben Turner, Carol Lever, Susan Peters and Lesley Ashby

Introduction

The Friends introduced themselves and came up with a variety of reasons that they love Alkington Woods.

Attendees were asked to provide a contact number if they wished to join the WhatsApp group.

Financial Report

Cliff provided a financial report showing income and expenditure since the group was reformed in 2019. The previous treasurer resigned from the role so Cliff has been acting treasurer with Jackie as co-signatory on cheques.

The group had a £715.29 in the bank on 18th February.

Cliff has applied for a community grant from Parklife of £930. This should cover anticipated running cost for several years and help fund volunteer equipment.

Special projects will be funded by the Township or external organisations. The group welcomes donations or legacies but has no need to collect subscriptions.

Friends Projects

RBC will be fitting our three information boards over the next few weeks covering, Heritage, Birdlife and Woodland.

Three of our thirty bird boxes have been destroyed so we plan to install another 10 next winter using the sponsorship scheme.

We plan to work with the Ranger service to plant more trees next winter. Recent losses of our large Beech trees are very sad but there are hundreds of planted and self seeded saplings that will take advantage of the improved light and nutrients.

Charlie Farrell is to speak with the Rochdale Naturalist Society to see if experts would like to lead tours for Friends or to give a talk at our meetings.

Both Rita and Helen suggested having more litter picking events. Cliff to arrange

The Friends are entering Riverside Park into Middleton in Bloom to highlight the community led improvements there. Judging is normally in June or July. The pond needs cleaning out if there is sufficient interest from volunteers.

Cliff suggested we begin lobbying for substantial improvements to our main footpaths in line with the recent conversion of Church Brow to a cycle and walkway for £220,000. Our footpaths provide a green traffic free network between the town centre and Rhodes, Hr Blackley and Alkington. We need to work on producing a start up plan to kick this off.

We have an abundance of artists and photographers amongst the Friends and it was agreed that we should consider holding an exhibition of work related to the reserve.

Mike Cummings has left the ranger service, his position is being advertised and his duties are currently being shared by Steve, Richard and Bob. Mike has done a fantastic job of improving the reserve over many years and we wish him well in his new role.

Environmental Issues

Discussion continued regarding the waterway pollution of sewage by United Utilities and Motorway runoff by the Transport Agency. It was suggested we continue to monitor the problem and provide evidence on social media as well as lobbying decision makers.

We will continue to support the BRIL project

Election of Committee

Existing holders were voted in unanimously.

Chairman	Cliff Ivers
Secretary and co signatory	Jackie Christy
Treasurer	Cliff Ivers

Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.