

FRIENDS of NORTH LODGE PARK

Inaugural Annual General Meeting

4 March 2015 - Cromer Community Hall

MINUTES

	<p>A full list of attendees is available. The meeting was chaired by Carolyn Candish; secretary was Barry Meadows.</p>
1	The Friends - who we are, what we do, we need your help
	Carolyn Candish
1.1	Who we are
	<p>At a public meeting last year, and in anticipation of taking over the freehold of the Park, the Town Council called for a new community group to be formed – The Friends of North Lodge Park – so that the local community could influence the future development of the Park. The Friends are a voluntary group of people who feel passionately about the Park and want to see it, once again, a well maintained and lively place of enjoyment for all.</p>
1.2	What we do
	<p>The Town Council now has a North Lodge Park (NLP) committee dedicated to managing, protecting and developing the park. In order to work closely with the community the Town Council invited representatives from the Friends to sit on this joint Park committee to represent the views of the community. All of these meetings are open to the Public.</p>
1.3	We need your help
	<p>This is the first opportunity for the users of the Park to be part of the decision making process at the very outset. There is now an established open channel of communication between the community and the new owners of the Park. We need your help in telling us what you want in the park and to ensure that the consultation process reaches as many members of the local community as possible. To achieve this we need to increase our membership.</p>
2	Update on transfer of North Lodge Park
	Carolyn Candish
	<p>We understand that negotiations for the transfer of the Park from the District to Town Council have recently made good progress and that the transfer could happen by the end of this month. There will, however, be financial restrictions. In addition to a dowry of £150,000 from NNDC, the Town Council has agreed a total budget of £21,626 for the year 2015-2016.</p>
	<p>Concern was expressed by several people whether the Town Council budget was sufficient for running the Park. It was agreed to raise this issue with CTC at the next joint meeting.</p>
3	Consultation process and open discussion
	Tony Knight
	<p>The Friends are launching an initial public consultation to obtain the views of the community on priorities for the park; this will provide the Friends with vital evidence to support any debates with CTC, and to collect good ideas for the Park. It is expected that this consultation will be followed by more detailed surveys in the future.</p>
	<p>The area of the Park being transferred (and therefore to be considered in the survey) includes the thatched 'collectors cabin' and sunken garden ('the lily pond').</p>
	<p>Suggestions were made to encourage involvement of schools (school council?) and visitors to Cromer in the survey.</p>
	<p>There is an opportunity in the questionnaire to suggest ways people can help / volunteer.</p>
	<p>A general discussion on the Park showed that there is considerable interest in the future of the Park.</p>
	<p>It was suggested that CTC/Friends should look for some quick wins to make a difference for this year.</p>

4	Adoption of constitution	Emma Dale
	The Friends of North Lodge Park need to have a formal framework to work within. This covers the groups aims and objectives, how the committee is organised, and how finance is managed.	
	Copies of the proposed constitution were circulated to the meeting.	
	The Constitution was proposed by Marion Saunders and seconded by Robert Dale. It was adopted by the AGM.	
5.1	Appointment Of Auditor	Rosemary Price
	Ed Lancaster was proposed as independent auditor by Lizzie Knight and seconded by Silvie Kilshaw. He was appointed by the meeting.	
5.2	Subscription	Rosemary Price
	The adopted constitution for the Friends states that the AGM should agree whether there is a subscription, and if so how much this should be.	
	The Friends will have running costs (such as room hire for meetings, printing and publicity costs, stationery and administration) which will need to be found. Whilst grants are available for certain activities, generally projects, they are not generally available for running costs.	
	After careful consideration, the steering group recommends a subscription of £5 per household for 2015.	
	Silvie Kilshaw proposed a £5 per household subscription to the AGM, seconded by Margaret Oilly. This was agreed by the AGM.	
6	Election of committee	Carolyn Candish
	Before standing down, Carolyn thanked the steering group for all of their hard work and support in driving the group forward.	
		Emma Dale
	Emma Dale then took the meeting and Carolyn Candish was elected to the new committee. Proposed by Bernard Smith. Seconded by Diana O'Shea and elected by the AGM	
		Carolyn Candish
	Resuming chair of the meeting Carolyn asked whether there was anyone else in the meeting who wished to stand as a committee member in addition to the list of names on the screen? (John Morgan was nominated after the screen was created so was added to the list.) No one came forward. She then asked each nominated candidate to stand up and requested whether the meeting would agree to the election of all the candidates en bloc. Proposed by Bernard Smith. Seconded by Brian Ashdown. Agreed by the AGM.	
	Anthony Knight, Barry Meadows, Carole Ormrod, Elizabeth Knight, Emma Dale, John Morgan, Paddy Bennet, Robert Dale, Rosemary Price, and Silvie Kilshaw were elected to the committee. Proposed by Bernard Smith. Seconded by Marion Saunders and elected by the AGM	
	The first meeting of the new committee, scheduled for 12 March 2015, will elect the officers. The committee will have the power to co-opt up to three additional members.	
7	New Resolutions	
	No new resolutions have been submitted to the Secretary.	
8	AOB	
	There was no other business	
	Carolyn closed the meeting at 20.15 by thanking all those who attended for their interest in the Friends and by thanking the Town Council for their support in setting up the Friends as a new community group.	
	Next Meetings	
	Committee meeting: 12 March 2015	
	Cromer Town Council North Lodge Park Committee: 19 March 2015	
	Friends of North Lodge Park AGM: Wednesday 2 March 2016	