

Meeting of the Parish Council Queen's Gardens sub-committee 16 Jan 19, 7pm.

Present – Kevin Lancaster, Ian McPherson, Robin Archer

The agenda for this meeting contained three main items:

- 1, the new flower beds in the Gardens overlooking the Bowling Club
- 2, the tree survey
- 3, the Parish Council Queen's Gardens sub-committee

1, With reference to the minutes of the Friends Management Meeting in November, Kevin expressed concern that he might have offended the Friends group with his none appearance. It was noted in the minutes at the time that he had sent his apologies via Janey but these had not been received prior to the meeting. Kevin was keen to stress that there is no personal, or Parish Council, intent to cause either offence or the appearance that they are not keen to listen to and take in to account the opinions of the Friends.

With regard to the flower beds, Robin explained that there had been a majority vote of the Friends at their AGM saying that they felt they are sited in the wrong spot, and there is a perception that the Parish Council are unwilling to discuss these concerns. Kevin and Ian both think that they would like to meet the Friends to discuss the issue face to face, and as a result they have suggested Robin organises another meeting of the Friends Group so they can meet. There also seems to be an idea held at the Parish Council that we are suggesting Sedbergh School take out the beds – Robin explained that there have been offers from the Friends to undertake any work required, and I added that in a conversation with Mitch the gardener on Tuesday he had expressed his willingness to assist and had some positive ideas.

I will circulate a couple of possible dates and try to set this meeting up.

There is a plan that Sedbergh School will be doing another challenge week this summer, so the sub-committee would like to also use such a meeting to formulate a plan of works for the kids, in the hope that there will then be no further misunderstandings about what is planned. Any suggestions for such works would be welcomed at the meeting.

It was also suggested that a member of the Friends Group might like to address the Parish Council at one of their meetings to explain the position of the Friends regarding these two beds. If anybody would like to do this, in a diplomatic manner, please let Robin know.

2, a professional tree survey has been carried out in the Gardens last October, looking at the safety of all the trees, on behalf of the Parish Council. Robin has a copy and this can be emailed if you are interested. In summary, there are half a dozen trees which have caused concern, ranging from those offering a slight risk through to three which are listed as high risk and the surveyor feels should be removed as soon as possible. It is the intention of Kevin and Ian to recommend this course of action to the full Parish Council and to get a quote for the work. Please see the separate note regarding the trees which I have attached to this email – if anyone has any objection please let me know asap. I have to say I would be surprised if anyone objects to the removal of the dangerous trees, and interested to hear their reasons.

It is then the intention of the sub-committee to develop a plan to tackle the remaining tree issues over the course of the next two years or so. The survey has been conducted on the basis of safety

only, with no aesthetic aspect to it, so it was suggested that in the development of this plan any input from the Friends regarding any trees which it is felt are not appropriate / over grown / not in keeping can be highlighted and hopefully integrated in to the plan of works. This can be discussed further at the next meeting.

3, Parish Council Queen's Gardens sub-committee. The Parish Council members feel that the committee is too small with three members after David's sad resignation last year. They are proposing to add one Parish Council Member and one member of the Friends, taking the full number to five. Again, if anyone from the friends would be interested in this please let me know, bearing in mind that we have a vacancy for a Chairman as well!

The meeting closed at 7.45.