

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF GEDLING  
COUNTRY PARK HELD ON MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016 AT 8.00 PM IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, ARNOT HILL PARK**

The record of attendance showed that 39 members were present at the Annual General Meeting. See Appendix I.

**1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

Terry welcomed everyone to the 'Friends' first Annual General Meeting. He thanked Gedling Borough Council, their staff (Melvyn Cryer; David Wakelin; Jane Richardson; Adam Hales) and Councillors for their support. Councillor John Clarke and Councillor Peter Barnes had given outstanding help.

Terry introduced the current Trustees and gave a brief description of their areas of responsibilities.

All papers for this AGM had been put on the Friends website. Any members without email addresses had been given the papers (only one set had to be posted).

Apologies had been received from Graham Tavner.

**2. MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

The Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were passed as a true record.

Proposed: Francis Rodrigues

Seconded: Jenny Fillingham

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING**

There were no matters arising.

**4. CHAIR'S REPORT**

See Appendix III

Terry gave details of how the Housing Developers are communicating with us (Bloor Homes and Keepmoat).

Gedling Country Park is the jewel in the crown of Nottinghamshire.

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

See Appendix IV

Nick gave details of how our income has been raised and where it has been spent. Gedling Borough Council had given us £500.00 in order to get started. This helped pay for: insurance, website, printing basic communication cost.

The sale of honey is giving us a steady income.

## 6. MEMBERSHIP

See Appendix V

Lynne gave details of our membership which is now over 200. This has raised £865.00 in membership fees.

We want to provide something for our members and if anyone has any ideas of social events, etc please let us know.

It was possible to renew your membership this evening.

Our Facebook now had over 600 supporters.

## 7. PROPOSAL FOR NEW CONSTITUTION

Half way through the year the money we had achieved made us look at our constitution and after investigation and discussion it was agreed that we should look at becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity). This new constitution is on the website (23 pages).

Rod gave the key points of adopting the new constitution: We would have a charity number which gave us more clout when applying for Sponsorship; VAT Relief; Gift Aid; future proof. At all times we would be under Charity Law. Constraints; we have to report back i.e. accounts will be formerly checked and audited.

The following proposal was made:

That the Friends of Gedling Country Park would adopt the new constitution to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Proposed: Dion Wright  
For: 34

Seconded: Nick Benedek  
Against: 0

Formerly Accepted

The new constitution would now be submitted to the Charity Commission for their approval. Once approval received we will apply to HMRC and register for Gift Aid and VAT relief.

## 8. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

See Appendix II

Members had been contacted before the AGM to ask if they were prepared to elect the existing Trustees en bloc. Members had agreed to do this.

Rod explained that now the new constitution had been adopted we were allowed to have 15 Trustees who would serve on a three year cycle. The time that the Trustees would serve would be agreed by lottery (1, 2 or 3 years).

Terry asked if there was any other member who would like to become a Trustee.

***This marked the end of the formal AGM.***

## **9. VOLUNTEERS**

We need more volunteers. Volunteers do not need to be members.

Volunteer Days are run by both Gedling Borough Council and the Friends of Gedling Country Park on weekdays and weekends. Dates are put on the 'Friends' website and Facebook. Work normally involves getting muddy but it is lots of fun. So far we have moved orchids; planted trees; cleared glades; made a butterfly walk; cleaned up the litter.

We will be taking part in the "Clean for the Queen" Big Spring Litter Sweep 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

We do have two pump flasks so we are able to have a hot drink and biscuits to reward our work.

If you have a skill which you feel could help please let us know – we do not have any First Aiders at the moment.

## **10. FRIENDS – PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

Brian gave details of the 'Friends' environmental work.

Time had been spent over this first year just looking at what was growing and living in the park – we need to walk very cautiously.

The Butterfly Conservation Trust had helped us develop the Butterfly Walk.

We want to make it a wild life centre and learning centre for children. A place where they can come and explore and make learning fun.

We would plant trees and bushes as mitigation around the new housing.

We will use only native plants and trees and gradually eradicate non-native species.

There are some footings already laid down in the Solar Farm ready for the bee hives to be moved in. We still need to lay more. There would be a demonstration bee hive so that visitors could see how the bees worked. Probably move the hives in end of February/early March.

Wild flower seeds have been applied for. It was hoped that local schools would help to propagate and plant them.

Work had already started on opening up the woodland and making small glades which would benefit the butterflies and also make it an interesting wild life adventure area for children with willow tunnels and connecting paths.

All the bee orchids which were moved last year are showing signs of growth.

We have been involved with the GBC Management Plan and on work needed for the lagoons.

We need information about species which are in the park – please pass back details to Brian.

Brian will be doing a moth count once a month – if you would like to be involved please let Brian know.

We want your ideas and opinions; desperately want to know what you want. Please let us know. We have not lost sight of the Memorial Garden (Miners, Bevin Boys and Armed Forces). Applications have been made for funding. November 2016 was the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the closing of Gedling Colliery.

## **11. GEDLING BOROUGH COUNCIL – PLANS FOR THE PARK**

### David Wakelin

David was absolutely delighted with what the Friends of Gedling Country Park had achieved – so much in such a short time. He enjoyed the monthly meetings with three of the Trustees and GBC staff involved with the Park. He had been massively reassured with what the ‘Friends’ are going to do.

Work was pressing ahead with plans for a Visitor’s Centre. University Students had been approached for fresh thinking of what it will look like. GBC committed for the long haul. Gedling Country Park will become one of the outstanding parks in Notts.

### Jane Richardson

Jane thanked the ‘Friends’ for all their hard work and gave the background history of the Park. Fencing would begin in February to protect ground nesting birds. It should be completed by March.

The children’s play area has now gone out to tender. £50,000.00 funding had been received from WreN. GBC had allocated money for this project too. There would be two play areas: Infant – 6 and 6 – 16. There would be a 10 metre high climbing unit. It was an exciting project and it would be built middle April – end of June 2016.

The Ice Cream and Hot Foot Concession would continue until the Visitor’s Centre was open.

Jane gave details of the work being done towards achieving a Green Flag Award.

### Adam Hales

Adam was the Park Ranger who had worked on the Management Plan which was 105 pages long. He gave details about the Plan. The Action Plan is 30 pages and covers the next five years. It will be available on the GBC Website shortly.

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### 12.1 Love Parks

We are members and 4 Trustees would be attending a Conference on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016. We have been submitted for an award. The ‘Friends’ have nominated GBC for the working partner award.

### 12.2 Car Parking/Spring Lane

The car park had been extended but people were still parking on Spring Lane. We are continually asking for people to be considerate to the residents of Spring Lane.

### 12.3 Tram

There is a two month feasibility study taking place.

### 13. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

Terry thanked everyone for their support. 2016 is the start of a fantastic journey.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

DRAFT

## APPENDIX I

### FRIENDS OF GEDLING COUNTRY PARK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016

#### ATTENDANCE LIST

Nick Benedek	Trustee	Jackie Loftus	Trustee
Jenny Fillingham	Trustee	Brian Osborne	Trustee
Rod Fillingham	Trustee	Francis Rodrigues	Trustee
Charlotte Harris	Trustee	Lynne Taylor	Trustee
Tony Keyworth	Trustee	Rick Wilson	Trustee
Terry Lock	Trustee		

David Wakelin*	Gedling Borough Council
Jane Richardson*	Gedling Borough Council
Adam Hales*	Gedling Borough Council

Councillor Bob Collis

Josephine Abbott  
Michael Abbott  
Andy Brown  
W Fearn  
Paul Flanagan  
M F Lamb\*  
Ken Lee  
David Marson  
Diane Moore  
Peter Moore  
Elaine Shelton  
Richard Simkins  
Alison Simkins  
Joyce Smith  
Peter Smith  
Alex Staniforth  
Marian Staniforth  
F I Suckley\*  
Mark Tyler  
M Wells  
Stephen Wells

Linda Wood  
Peter Wood  
Ian Woods\*  
Dion Wright

\*Non Members

**APPENDIX II**  
**FRIENDS OF GEDLING COUNTRY PARK**  
**ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

The following Trustees were elected:

Proposed: Terry Lock	<b>Nick Benedek</b>	Seconded: Francis Rodrigues
Proposed: Lynne Taylor	<b>Jenny Fillingham</b>	Seconded: Brian Osborne
Proposed: Lynne Taylor	<b>Rod Fillingham</b>	Seconded: Brian Osborne
Proposed: Jackie Loftus	<b>Charlotte Harris</b>	Seconded: Terry Lock
Proposed: Francis Rodrigues	<b>Tony Keyworth</b>	Seconded: Rod Fillingham
Proposed: Brian Osborne	<b>Terry Lock</b>	Seconded: Jenny Fillingham
Proposed: Terry Lock	<b>Jackie Loftus</b>	Seconded: Charlotte Harris
Proposed: L Greaves	<b>Brian Osborne</b>	Seconded: Matthew Fry
Proposed: Brian Osborne	<b>Francis Rodrigues</b>	Seconded: Jenny Fillingham
Proposed: Terry Lock	<b>Graham Tavner</b>	Seconded: Nick Benedek
Proposed: Brian Osborne	<b>Lynne Taylor</b>	Seconded: Rod Fillingham
Proposed: Terry Lock	<b>Rick Wilson</b>	Seconded: Francis Rodrigues

## **APPENDIX III**

### **Chairman's Report – December 2015**

At the inaugural AGM, held in September 2014, I had the privilege to be elected as a Trustee and subsequently elected by my fellow Trustees as Chairman. I little realised what an incredible year it was going to turn out to be. In fact it is hard to believe that the park has not even been open for a full year yet.

At the start we faced a major obstacle with the application by Tamar to build an Anaerobic Digester at the south end of the park, adjacent to the existing Methane extractor plant. Our energies were directed immediately to co-ordinating the objections by individuals and other organisations to the plans. When we started our battle we were aware of less than a dozen objections, by the time we had seen the plans completely and comprehensively rejected our campaign had seen over 700 objections. This effort took us from September until February 2015 and occupied the majority of our time.

From January onwards we started to work on the plans for the park. One of our first tasks was to create a logo that represented the park visually; I think we can say that we have certainly achieved that.

We also started work on raising funds to support our activities and for future use. As you will see from the Treasurers report I feel that we have been extremely successful in this – but this is just the start of our efforts in raising funds to allow the development of the park. At this point I should like to express the thanks of the Trustees and Friends to all those organisations and businesses who have helped us both financially and materially.

The Trustees worked to develop a design for a Memorial garden to commentate the history of the Colliery and those who gave their lives during its operation and after its closure. We have now identified what we feel to be the best site for this and our efforts continue to raise the necessary funds to allow us to complete this area of remembrance. The garden will include items relevant to the mining history and a set of tunnel support rings, which have been obtained, will form a prominent feature.

On the weekend of March 28/29th 2015, the council formally opened the park and we were delighted to welcome all those who came along (approximately 3000), despite the appalling weather, to enjoy the park. Since then we have seen the growth of areas and the improvements in the natural environment which have been enjoyed by all during the 10 months since then.

Our team of Volunteers have worked with the council and on our own organised events to start the long task of preparing areas for future use. Removing dozens of sacks of rubbish, Tree guards, planting new trees and bushes and starting areas such as the Butterfly walk.



We have worked with the council on the development of the overall management plan for the park; this together with other maintenance plans will form part of the submission for Green Flag status.

The desire to maintain and support native species of trees and bushes has been a common theme in everything we have done and this has extended to working with developers who will be providing the new housing around the park and we have established a good relationship with Keepmoat, Bloor and are actively waiting for the final plans on the Gedling Access Road (GAR) to determine how it will impact on the Southern areas of the park.

We have made good use of social media to help promote and publicise the park and our website and face book pages are regularly used by the public and members seeking information. These are actively supported by the Gedling Borough Council websites also.

In addition we have worked to set out the basis for a strong future for the Friends group in the years ahead. Part of this will be seen in the proposed new constitution which will allow us to register for Charity status and thus enable future trustees to better react to future opportunities.

All of this meant that we have delayed the AGM until we had this and other actions in place, hopefully for your approval.

So to bring this report to a close I should like to offer my personal thanks to all our members, our hard working volunteers, my fellow trustees and most importantly of all the staff and councillors of Gedling Borough Council.

Just remember that the best is yet to come with 2016 seeing children's play areas, a toilet block, our beehives in use on the solar farm and most importantly, studies commencing on the Visitors Centre.

Oh yes – lots more volunteers please.....

**Terry Lock, Chairman, Friends of Gedling Country Park**

## APPENDIX IV

### Treasurer's Report – December 2014

The Friends of Gedling Country Park was formed on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and ran its first financial year through to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

#### Income Received

Income for the period from September 2014 to December 2015 was as follows:

Category	Amount	Description
<b>Grants</b>	£2,000	£1,500 from the Postcode Lottery for the provision of bee hive equipment, park activity and gardening equipment. £500 start-up grant from Gedling Borough Council.
<b>Donations</b>	£1,203	£1,000 from the Foresight Group for the provision of bee hives in the solar farm and £203.11 from Gedling Voluntary Service arising from the ending of another Friends group.
<b>Fund Raising Events</b>	£1,049	Monies raised from various fund raising activities, including sale of refreshments on the Park Opening Day and two Members Events, charges for eight Xplorer Family Orienteering Events, sale of wildlife guides and Friends T-shirts.
<b>Membership Fees</b>	£865	Membership fees taken for individual and family membership.
<b>Sale of Honey</b>	£240	Sale of honey from FGCP bee hives.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,357</b>	

#### Expenditure

For the same period, expenditure was as follows:

Category	Amount	Description
<b>Equipment</b>	£1,620	The purchase of bee hives and keeping equipment, a portable generator, gazebo, storage boxes, pick axes, loppers and refreshment dispensers.
<b>Fund Raising</b>	£508	Costs associated with the £1,033 of income for the fund raising events, including t-shirts, wildlife guides, and refreshment materials.
<b>Insurance</b>	£313	Provision of public liability, personal accident and trustee liability insurance.
<b>Marketing, Communications and Web</b>	£145	Web site hosting charge, stamps and printing costs, notice board items.
<b>Forums &amp; Event Attendance</b>	£87	Attendance at NTU Biodiversity Action Group, Trustee Training workshop, Greenwood Community Forum, Gedling Gala and charges for use of

		Gedling Memorial Hall
<b>Honey Making Costs</b>	£78	Honey jars and labels.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,871</b>	

The bank account is held at Unity Trust and the balance as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 was £2,360. There was also £125.50 in petty cash.

**Nick Benedek, Treasurer, Friends of Gedling Country Park**

## APPENDIX V

### Membership Secretary's Report – December 2014

FGCP membership was launched at a meeting in December 2014. A fee of £5 for individuals and £10 for families was proposed by the Trustees and agreed by the people present.

The membership scheme has been really successful which shows how much the community want to support the work we are doing on the Park. We have, so far, signed up 49 individuals and 62 families giving us a membership of well over 200, which is an incredible number in just one year.

The membership scheme has raised £865 (up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015). This money is very important as it gives us a pot of cash to spend on those low profile but important things such as insurance. Membership renewals will start to go out soon – but you will also be able to renew your membership at the AGM.

If you have any ideas on what you as members want to see organised on the park or if you have skills or interests that you'd like to share with other members – let us know (e-mail [fgcpmembers@gmail.com](mailto:fgcpmembers@gmail.com))

**Lynne Taylor, Membership Secretary, Friends of Gedling Country Park**