

**BUSHEY MANOR FIELD TRUST**  
**MINUTES** of a Public Meeting held at Queens School, Aldenham Road,  
on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

<b>Trustees</b>	Gillian Gray Laurence Brass Robert Morton Carey Keates Margaret Sibley	Chairman
<b>Public Attendance:</b>	Cllr. Peter Rutledge Cllr. Jane West 30 residents	

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present and thanking them for coming.

**1. MANAGEMENT OF THE FIELD DURING THE PAST YEAR.**

- 1.1 **Trees – Grange Road.** All these trees have been inspected and pronounced safe. There is one tree which needs attention and this is being dealt with.
- 1.2. **Hedges.** These have been cut and are looking neat and tidy. Thanks are due to Gillian Gray
- 1.3 **Grass Cutting.** The grass is cut on a regular basis by Edward Brooke of Caldecote Farm Riding Stables. There is no charge for this service but he keeps the hay. This seems to the Trustees to be a win-win situation. The area outside the footpath perimeter will continue to be left uncut to encourage wild life.
- 1.4 **Public Liability.** The Trustees hold insurance against accidents etc. This is a costly but necessary outlay.

**WORK NEEDING TO BE DONE.**

- 1.5 **Blackthorne.** This is a problem and will have to be dealt with on a professional basis and is being looked into.

**2. SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE AUDIENCE.**

- 2.1 **Childrens Play Area.** This was discussed but most agreed there were sufficient facilities for children in the area but the matter would be born in mind.
- 2.2 **Butterfly Area.** The uncut edges of the field should encourage wildlife in general but wild flowers could maybe be seeded.

- 2.3 Professional Dog Walkers.** It was thought professional dog walkers should contribute toward the running cost of the field and a separate meeting will be arranged where the Chairman will discuss this with those concerned. The two professional dog walkers who were present were in complete agreement with this suggestion. Emptying the dog bins alone costs £1,000 each year.
- 2.4 Heathfield Road Entrance.** It was suggested this gate should be re-sited because it causes traffic problems.
- 2.5 Field should be a Community Space and not just for dog walkers.** This is very relevant for a lot of people. Because it is such a safe place for dogs with good fences and gates dog walkers will continue to use it. It was suggested the fences and/or the gates should be removed which would solve the problem. **All suggestions will be discussed at the next Trustees Committee Meeting**

**3. TREASURER'S REPORT.** There are sufficient funds in the bank to carry out any work on the field which becomes necessary.  
Our income comes from the interest on the capital sum of £375,000 invested plus £300 per annum from the Electricity Company who have a generator on the field.  
Asked if the accounts are online the Treasurer said they could be viewed on the Charity Commission website.

**4. FALCONER SCHOOL** have been using the field for nature based activities and a letter of thanks from the school was read to the meeting. See below.

“At present we use the field on a regular basis for a range of activities. A lot of this is as simple as using the woods and field area to play games and explore, encouraging the boys to enjoy spending time outdoors (and be more resilient to a bit of mud). Use of the field gives the boys a chance to socialise with people walking their dogs – this works well as the dogs act as an icebreaker for the less confident in the group who often struggle with their peers let alone members of the public.

Our year 8 group are currently in the middle of creating a semi permanent shelter area in the woods using a parachute as a removable roof. Once a shelter area is finished the boys would like to go on and create a small learning space and potentially a fire pit. This project has been entirely planned and created by the boys and should hopefully be in place within the next few weeks. I would be more than happy to keep you updated with progress on this and send pictures when it is in place”

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.