

Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall meeting, Wednesday, 24 March 2010

MINUTES

Approximately 25 people were in attendance at the Baptist Church Centre, Fisher's Lane, Cherry Hinton.

Formal apologies were received from Patrick Mills, Robert Dryden, Catherine Mills, Bob Daines, Barbara Oxley, David Wilson and Sheila Manton.

1. Welcome / introduction

Michelle Bullivant, vice chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Michelle mentioned that the latest copy of Cambridgeshire Police's community magazine "On your Beat" included an article about Cambridge's South Neighbourhood Team who had – in response to residents' feedback – completed 34 hours of uninterrupted walking during Friday and Saturday evenings from 8.00-11.00 pm in and around Cherry Hinton Hall grounds. This initiative was in particular due to the feedback the Police had received from the *Friends* at the September 2009 meeting.

2. Minutes and matters arising from 20 January meeting

The minutes were agreed; no matters were arising.

3. Master Plan for development of former propagation centre area / beyond

Copies of the plans from Robert Myers Associates were made available and members took time to study the proposals in detail. The meeting reconvened for discussion at 8.00 pm.

Members present at the meeting were generally very impressed with the ideas that Robert Myers had come up with, and thought he had done a very good job in accommodating the feedback from *Friends* and other stakeholders and in understanding the feel of the Hall grounds and the sort of place that people would like to see it develop into.

Some general points were made during the discussion:

- Cafes should be 'non-permanent' to avoid vandalism etc during the winter months
- Tables and chairs should be prevented from being taken onto the gravel area / near the duck pond to try and minimise the additional quantities of litter that will inevitably find its way into the water
- No food or drink should be allowed by the water's edge
- Investment in CCTV particularly for the orchard area, near the new trees, by the new rose garden etc should be considered
- Paths should not use hoggin as the main surface material; more tarmac or similar springy tarmac like material should be used

- Speed humps and other measures to restrict vehicle movements should be introduced
- Speed signs should be in place
- Sporadic / discrete lighting should be considered although with thought to any potential to attract antisocial behaviour
- Adequate systems need to be in place for the supply of goods and removal of rubbish from the cafes, without causing damage to the grounds
- How about a graffiti wall to try and reduce the amount of tagging elsewhere (currently trees are already being sprayed with graffiti); a suggestion was to use the outside of any wall built to replace the laylandii hedge
- The buildings should include a store for FCHH equipment e.g. for litter-picking, pond clearance, etc
- What's wrong with the current bridge!

One general response was that perhaps “pressure groups do work”, and “without the *Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall* we would have had a MUGA”.

A request was made to formally record the Friends thanks to Robert Myers for his work and also to members of the City Council Active Communities team who had assisted Robert.

4. Maintenance / Wildlife

The recent dog attack on the goose by the duck pond had upset a number of *Friends* and park goers, and Bob Hall read out a letter from Barbara Oxley which summarised feelings very well.

It was suggested that dogs should be on leads when near the duck pond / wildlife area and also when in the children's play areas.

< *Please can the City Council erect some signage instructing owners that dogs must be on leads by the duck pond?* > It was suggested that any wording should include “It is an Offence”. Stuart said he would make this request to Anthony French. Members were also advised to report any further issues including descriptions of any individuals to the Friends.

Judy Webb asked if all the bird and bat boxes had now been put in place. Could the Friends also have some *litter pickers* from the City Council so we can arrange our own litter picking sessions? Again, Stuart said he would make this request to Anthony French.

5. Promotional literature and update on FCHH funding

Stuart Newbold mentioned that the Cambridge Community Foundation (<http://www.cambscf.org.uk/>) required feedback on how the Friends had spent our grant money by 1 April. Paul Holmes mentioned that the Allotment Holders had also received money in the past and that the deadline for response was flexible.

It was agreed to put together a flyer to go to approximately 6,000 households around the Hall (in Cherry Hinton, Coleridge, Queen Ediths and Romsey areas), with a

summary of the proposed changes, the timetable of consultation and decisions, and information about the Friends and how to use the Friends Website etc to feedback views on the proposals.

Given that the proposals would be put to South Area Committee on 13 May, this needed to be produced and circulated in mid April. Stuart will request a copy of the sketched plan by Robert Myers to use on one side of the flyer. Stuart will also ask if copies of the documents could be made available on the Friends Website ready for the online survey.

It was agreed that the Friends should also have a glossy 3-fold leaflet available for use at a Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall stall at the Cambridge Folk Festival. This would be available for later use in shops, libraries, schools etc and also at other community events.

Michelle and Bob Hall agreed to put together a 'News Archive' on the Friends Website to give a chronology of events and associated materials.

6. AOB

A request was made to try and limit the damage caused by football being played on the marked-out pitch, particularly in the afternoons. Some areas are getting quite damaged as the ground is still wet – “overuse” was cited. Perhaps cones could be used instead of white lines until the summer / drier months?

Could we make use of / spruce up the Notice Board at the entrance? If there is a key, perhaps Anthony French could organise for the Friends to have a spare one cut?

Meeting notices. We will try to ensure future meetings are advertised and Sandra Day kindly volunteered to laminate any posters and put them up for the week prior-to a meeting and also remove them afterwards.

7. Date and venue of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 19 May, at 7.00 pm, at the Baptist Church Centre, Fisher's Lane, Cherry Hinton.

8. Close