

**Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall**  
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014**  
**Cherry Hinton Village Church Centre, Colville Road, Cherry Hinton**

**Attendance**

In attendance from the committee were David Taylor, Stuart Newbold, Sandra Day, Emily Poyser, Judy Webb, Ian Simmons + 6 local members

Also in attendance Anthony French, Cambridge City Council

**1. Chairs Welcome and thanks**

David Taylor welcomed the local members and Anthony and thanked the committee.

**2. Minutes & Matters Arising**

Minutes agreed as accurate.

Matters arising

- Dog Attacjes – council ask that the public need to ensure they report any attacks
- Dog Fouling – again, council asks that this is reported so it can be monitored and cleaned up

**3. Website**

New website should be ready by end 2014, with a new gallery page, events calendar and blog. Comments will be allowed on the site, but will be approved first.

Agreed that a newsletter is needed, especially for those who don't have a computer.

**4. Recent Community Action Day**

Reasonably successful with 2-3 volunteers and PCSOs were in attendance, a lot of work was carried out.

Noted a tree has come down behind the new Ken Woollard bench, once this has been made safe then the trunk will be allowed to rot naturally for wildlife

David Taylor is gradually cutting back the brambles, and Mark Ashton confirmed that rangers would be able to assist.

More action days planned for 2015, with the first in March

**5. Guest Speaker – Anthony French**

New Gate

Anthony confirmed a new electronic gate would be installed which should ease and resolve the parking problems. The gate automatically closes behind a car once it has driven through – but this would only open after a code had been entered into the keypad. Repairs & Renewals budget has paid for this new gate.

The old gate will be recycled and moved to the entrance next to the bus-stop to replace the current gate.

#### Car-Park

Problems with people parking overnight, possibly solution could be a barrier.

#### Trees

Roots from large tree need to be checked by a tree specialist, with the possibility of looking to remove the large conifers to see if this improves light for the flowerbeds.

#### Master Plan

Local stakeholders (so council, FCHH, and other community groups) were approached to gain feedback about the priorities within the park. A new report has been produced that will be reviewed by the council and then to these key stakeholders

New Features that are seen as high priority include;

- Improvement of the toilets
- Lake Dredging – this would benefit ecology. The quote received is less than expected £75k quoted but could be cheaper if silt not taken off site but utilised as a wildlife area
- Paved areas to be added to improve access
- Landscape works of rose garden
- Removal of the 2 trees near the hall, at present they are only half the expected size – worry that the roots could go into the foundations of the hall building

A lower budget has meant that some areas have been reviewed for example a toilet block that will be useable but less 'fancy'

Anthony will work out total costs and a timescale for the priority items and draft a schedule of works. The report produced has given weight to the works required, there is a backlog of projects throughout the city so some areas of the Master Plan may still need reviewing

A staff structure change is due at the city council soon.

Negative feedback about the grounds currently;

- Removal of fence
- Little biodiversity
- Council Yard is an issue and needs screening
- Play area good but needs more provision for toddlers. Current play items still need replacing as per meeting previously
- Cycling Parking has had mixed reviews and locations of racks needs careful thinking
- Path realignment has received good reviews and shouldn't flood as much as previous path
- A map/signage board would be useful to show-off what is available at the hall/grounds
- Increasing the seating has received a positive response but more seating or moving seating required as some in the lake area are hidden by brambles
- Bird sanctuary area has been vandalised again, pallets used to build a bridge

Anthony confirmed an increase of enforcement presence is due around the whole city with more officers available to react to problems

Discussed if mobile security cameras would be useful around the hall grounds?

Hard-standing area could be use more purposefully, idea of having painted 'snakes and ladders' game marked out on the hard-standing for children to use.

#### **6. Dates for 2015 meetings and Community Action Days**

It was agreed that there would only be 4 meetings held at the village centre, reduced from 6 each year. These would be held at the beginning of each season.

Community Action days planned 4 times a year weather permitting.

Speakers are still required for 2015 meetings, had a problem in 2014 with some not turning up

Meeting dates for 2015 would be confirmed at the November meeting (attended by Anthony French).