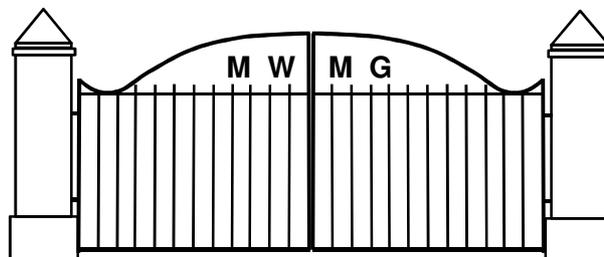


Mansfield Woodhouse Millennium Green Trust

Charity Registration Number 1075937



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 22nd November 2017 St Edmund's Church @ 7pm

1	<p><u>Attendance</u></p> <p>Ann Walter Chair Bob Thacker Treasurer Andy Riby Secretary</p> <p>Phil Hooks Volunteer Sheila McFarlane Volunteer Jean Hobson Volunteer David Hobson Volunteer Jenny Timson Volunteer Stuart Gullen Volunteer Ann Ralph Ian Bostock Susan Evans Peter Bostock Bill Royce</p> <p>Apologies: Joyce Bosnjak, Alan Meale, Irene Bacon, Peter Sutcliffe</p>	Action by
2	<p><u>Welcome & introductions</u></p> <p>Ann Walter welcomed everyone to the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Mansfield Woodhouse Millennium Green Trust and introductions were made.</p>	
3	<p><u>Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes were agreed to be a true record. Proposed by: Bob Thacker Seconded by: Phil Hooks</p>	
4	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Bob Thacker explained that the proposal to put beehives on the Green had been carefully considered but the Trustees had decided against doing so as fear of bees could put some people off visiting the Green. The Trustees were open to more informal bee shelters being placed around the Green, and perhaps schools could be involved in the design and making these shelters.</p>	All
5	<p><u>Chair's report</u></p> <p>Ann Walter thanked the Trust's volunteers and supporters for their help in what had been a difficult and challenging year.</p> <p>Much hard work had been put into regularly mowing the wild flower meadow to kill off any remaining annual weeds. Mowing would cease in the Spring, and hopefully there would be a good crop of wild flowers in the Summer. Also Yellow Rattle seeds had been planted over a two month period around the Green.</p>	

	<p>The first fruits had been taken off the newly planted community orchard as soon as they had formed to encourage tree growth. Supporting stakes had begun being taken away from some trees as they became sturdier. Ann Walter reminded the attendees that the orchard had been planted for the community and they should feel free to pick the fruit.</p> <p>Two pairs of rescued hedgehogs had been released on the Green, courtesy of Cheryl Martins of Mansfield Wildlife Rescue. One of them was pregnant, so the Trustees were hopeful that a thriving hedgehog community might develop on the Green.</p> <p>Pleasingly, children from St Edmund’s school had been using the Green, building homes for furry animals and hanging pine cones on trees they had filled with fat to feed the birds. Brambles nursery also made use of the Green.</p> <p>The hedge along Welbeck Road that was laid last year is thickening up nicely. The final 30 metres of hedge up to the Donkey Steps will be laid shortly.</p> <p>Following through on a suggestion arising from a community consultation meeting, a bird feeding project is ongoing on the Green thanks to 7 volunteers who check the feeders daily. Funding for the project has been provided by the Post Code Local Trust.</p> <p>The Greenwood Community Young Volunteers award went to Penelope and Adelphi Fleet, both regular attenders at our monthly working parties.</p> <p>An educational talk on butterflies organised by the Trust in the summer had been well attended and so the Trustees planned a series of nature talks, the next one being on bats.</p> <p>Depressingly work to shore up the sides of the Donkey Steps to make them easier to maintain had to be abandoned when wood for the project was stolen. The work was being carried out by a Severn Trent volunteer group. While the Donkey Steps are not the responsibility of the Trust, the Trust had nevertheless co-ordinated the project as it would have been of benefit to the community.</p>	
6	<p><u>Treasurer’s report</u></p> <p>Bob Thacker distributed a copy of the Trust’s accounts for the year ended 31 August 2017 to the meeting. These showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £1,681. While the Trust had £6,063 in the bank, Bob explained that only £3,215 of this cash could be spent at the discretion of the Trustees. The remaining funds had to be used for specific purposes, £1,414 for the meadow and hedge work, £488 for the bird feeding project and £946 for development work. Day to day expenditure to keep the Green running totalled £948 which is on a par with the previous year. In conclusion, Bob reported that the Trust is solvent and holding its own.</p> <p>Income of £446 had been raised by the Trust through the Summer and Christmas Fairs, and concluded they were worth taking part in. He asked for volunteers to help man the Trust’s table at the forthcoming Christmas Fair on Saturday 9th December, and donations of unwanted gifts for selling at the fair.</p> <p>Bob explained that the £33 income from Give As You Live (GAYL) came from making online purchases from participating retailers through that GAYL website and nominating the Trust to receive the commission arising from the purchase.</p>	
7	<p><u>Future developments</u></p> <p>Andrew Riby outlined some of the projects the Trust is currently considering.</p> <p>Funding is being sought to plant 3 oak trees at the top of the Green to commemorate the centenary of the ending of the First World War. If successful, a ceremony to dedicate the trees is planned for Saturday 10th November 2018. Stuart Gullen suggested having a</p>	

	<p>collection box on the Trust's Christmas stall to raise funds for the project and to advertise it. He felt sure the village would get behind such a memorial and suggested the Trustees contact the British Legion to request support.</p> <p>The Trustees believe some form of tool storage on the Green is essential to secure the long term future of the Trust. Currently tools are kept off site in a lock up on Yeoman's Hill Park or at the homes of Trustees and volunteers. Transporting them to and from the site is time consuming and a source of wear and tear on both the volunteers and their cars. The attendees expressed concern about the security implications of putting all the Trust's equipment in one store on site. It was agreed that a small shipping container would be secure. However, initial discussions with the planning department of Mansfield District Council had revealed that permanent planning consent would never be granted for shipping containers, but that a temporary consent for 3 years was possible. While extensions to the consent could be applied for, it was unlikely any extension would go on for more than 10 years, making an investment in a shipping container uneconomic. The planners had promised to look at tool storage arrangements on the Council's parks and recreation grounds and come up with some ideas as to what might be acceptable. Several attendees thought there could be local objections to locating a shipping container in the Welbeck Road/Donkey Steps corner of the site, even if steps were taken to mask its appearance. Ian Bostock suggested a site cabin would be just as secure and smaller. The Trustees agreed to investigate this.</p> <p>Planting a thicket in the Leeming Park/cemetery corner of the Green is being considered to encourage bird life.</p> <p>A web site for the Trust is currently being developed, and this should prove useful in communication meetings, events and future plans. It could also provide more information on the various flora and fauna to be found on the Green. Sheila McFarlane suggested that a Facebook Friends group should be set up. There was a suggestion that the Trust could use the Mansfield Woodhouse Facebook friend group rather than setting up its own. Bill Royce welcomed moves to publicise the Green as he believed many people still didn't know where it was. He was keen to take the Green's publicity banner to an Old Woodhouse Society meeting to enlighten their members, and suggested Bob Thacker might like to speak at one of their meetings. Forty people attend the Old Woodhouse Society meetings and so there is an opportunity to recruit more volunteers for the Green.</p> <p>Further details of the forthcoming bat talk on 7th March were provided. The speaker will be Michael Walker, the Nottinghamshire Bat Recorder. He carried out a bat survey of the Green in 2015 when he found some noctule and pipistrelle bats. Hopefully he would agree to lead a bat walk around the Green after his talk. An attendee suggested that bat boxes should be installed on the Green. Bob Thacker explained that Michael Walker had suggested these were unnecessary as there were already lots of roosting opportunities for bats around the Green. He also mentioned that once up they require regular maintenance.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>Bob</p>
8	<p><u>Question time</u></p> <p>No questions were forthcoming so Ann Walter closed the meeting after thanking everyone for attending and participating.</p> <p>After the meeting closed, one of the attendees asked Ann Walter if the Trustees might consider installing up some information about the Green in brail.</p>	<p>All</p>