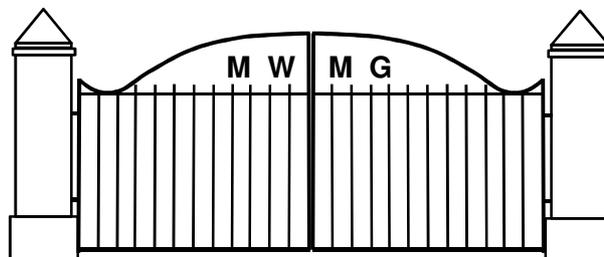


Mansfield Woodhouse Millennium Green Trust

Charity Registration Number 1075937



MWMT Trust Secretary, c/o Park Road Resource Centre, 53 Park Road,
Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, NG19 8EG

Email: mwmgreen@hotmail.com
Web site: www.mwmgreen.weebly.com
Phone: 07759207550

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 30th January 2019 Turner Hall, Mansfield Woodhouse @ 7pm

1	<u>Attendance</u> Ann Walter Chair Bob Thacker Treasurer Andy Riby Secretary Sir Alan Meale Patron Phil Hooks Volunteer Sheila McFarlane Volunteer Stuart Gullen Volunteer Ian Bostock Resident Annie Perry Volunteer Irene Bacon Volunteer Gill Grievson Greenwood Community Forest Dave Oliver Volunteer Jane Thacker Volunteer Apologies: Martin Lee, Geoff Warren, John Coxhead, Leslie Wright, Joyce Bosnjak, Sue McJannet, Shannon & Alastair MacFarlane, Jean & Dave Hobson	Action by
2	<u>Welcome & introductions</u> Ann Walter welcomed everyone to the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Mansfield Woodhouse Millennium Green Trust and introductions were made.	
3	<u>Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting</u> The minutes were agreed to be a true record. Proposed by: Sheila McFarlane Seconded by: Phil Hooks	
4	<u>Matters Arising</u> The secretary explained that he had investigated the cost of putting up braille signs imparting information about the Green, but had been unable to find any funding for such a project. Gill Grievson suggested contacting the Sensory Trust for ideas for finding funding.	AR
5	<u>Chair's report</u> Ann was saddened to report the death of former trustee, Bill Royce who died on 8th December 2018 following a long period of ill health. Ann Walter thanked the Trust's volunteers and supporters for their help in what had been a very busy year. The trustees felt that 2018 was one of our most successful years so far, despite the volume of rubbish and dog poo we clear, and the occasional mindless acts of vandalism. The projects the Trust was engaged in during the year were:	

Three Oaks project

The commemorations for WW1 centred on planting three oak trees at the top of the Green on the Saturday 10th November. The Trust had received donations from members of the community, Yorkshire Building Society, the Armed Forces Covenant Trust, the Seaforth Highlanders Association, councillors & local businesses for the project. Ten Perspex silhouettes from the Armed Forces Covenant Trust were placed around the Green.

The planting ceremony involved a local pensioner Margaret Davy, Sir Alan Meale our patron & Dylan Coupe a pupil from St Edmund's School who won a competition for writing poem about the war & which he read out at the ceremony. Music was provided by the Mansfield District Corps of Drums, & pipers from the Seaforth Highlanders Association. A tree was carried by the RAF air cadets on a stretcher loaned by the Mines Rescue and piped up the Green and ceremoniously planted. Celebrant Andrea Garlick gave a moving address, we had a moment of silence to remember the fallen & listen to a lament, then processed back down the pathways to have hot tea and dripping sandwiches, as well as more 21st century food. Around 120 people attended the commemoration.

New thicket

In March 2018 a thicket was planted in the southern corner of the Green in the teeth of squally snowstorms. Thankfully the vast majority of the whips we planted survived and will, in time, provide habitat for birds & small mammals.

Bird Feeding project

The bird feeding project has been enthusiastically supported by a great band of volunteers. Funding for feeders & seed has been provided by the Peoples Post Code Lottery. Despite a short suspension due to a problem with rats, the project was resumed without ground feeding stations and is ongoing.

Hedgehog Boxes

In April, Cheryl Martin of the Mansfield Wildlife Rescue released onto the Green the first two of several rescued hogs after we made and positioned two boxes for them to shelter in. The hogs were initially fed by volunteers until they settled in to their new neighbourhood.

Community Orchard

The orchard is thriving in spite of two trees being vandalised & one tree dying of natural causes. They are regularly checked and have been recently been pruned by volunteer Scott Fleet. The tree that died naturally has been replaced but not the vandalised trees. These were sited near to paths and any replacement would probably attract further vandalism.

Tree Maintenance

A tree survey was undertaken early last year, the first since the Trust was reformed in 2013. It identified 25 trees posing safety risks. While Mansfield District Council agreed the majority of the work was necessary, it did not accept that the recommended crown raising and lowering for the Horse Chestnut was necessary. Tree surgeons carried out the bulk of the work with Bob completing the job swinging from trees in his climbing harness. Timber from the exercise sold and the brash turned into habitat piles around the Green.

Tool Store

Work is due to start in April this year after funding was secured from the Big Lottery and Mansfield Building Society. The store will be built in the northern corner of the Green and its sedum roof should make it much less obtrusive. Brick built with a double skin, steel security doors and a roof made from concrete panels, the store should be virtually impregnable. The store will maximise the use of volunteers' time, and stop the wear and tear on them and their cars transporting kit onto the site.

Wildflower Meadow

It looked beautiful in the spring and summer with the 14 varieties of wild flowers. Eventually

it became trodden down by visitors which made the task of mowing after flowering & distributing the seeds very difficult. We are looking forward to another lovely display again this year.

Wildlife Talks

The Trust hosted two talks last year, on bats in March and damsel & dragon flies in October. We are planning more of these talks and any suggestions for future topics would be welcome.

School Visits

St Edmund's school continues to use the Green as does the Nursery opposite. It is heart-warming to see children enjoying the outdoor space & learning about the environment.

Records Archive

Old records are now stored in a filing cabinet in the Old Mansfield Woodhouse Society room in the library.

General Maintenance

During the year the 'A' frames at entrances & adjacent fences were painted, and some ragwort removed (poisonous to horses) but clumps left as it hosts the cinnabar moth. Path edges were tidied, the wolves carving varnished and preserved, wild flower plugs planted, and more yellow rattle seeds sown. Volunteers attended a free pruning tuition in Pleasley in January which has proved very useful. There was mowing, mowing & yet more mowing!

Summer/Christmas Fair

These two fairs are as about more than fund raising. Meeting people and advertising who we are and what we do is really worthwhile. The drop in session held at the Community Market in November was not a success and probably won't be repeated.

Robin Hood Lottery & Give As You Live

The Trust joined the new Robin Hood Lottery during the year which brings in a useful small regular income each month, as does the 'Give As You Live' scheme for online purchases which costs donors nothing.

Website

We also have now our own website which is on <https://mwmg.weebly.com>. Events, working party dates, photographs, nature notes and information about the Green can be found here.

6

Treasurer's report

Bob Thacker, the treasurer, distributed a copy of the Trust's accounts for the year ended 31 August 2018 to the meeting. These showed a deficit of income over expenditure of £801. He explained that much of this deficit was due to expenditure on projects for which the Green had received funding up front in previous years, and £459 of the deficit arose from grant monies returned to SUEZ due to an underspend on that project. The large increase in Maintenance and Equipment expenditure was largely due to the tree survey report and hiring a power scythe to cut the wildflower meadow.

Bob thanked the many individuals who had supported the Green either by donating time or money, and District Councillor Lesley Wright and County Councillors Bosnjak and Tsimbiridis for their generous donations. He thanked Councillor Ann Norman, Park Hall Financial Services/Yorkshire Building Society, Notts. County Council and the Communities Commemoration fund for the grants received for the Three Oaks appeal.

The balance of the General Fund, which can be spent at the trustees' discretion on the maintenance of the Green, had actually increased in the year by £559 to £3,775. Bob concluded that the Trust continues to be able to meet its regular expenditure and to have a small reserve to manage any emergency expenditure.

	The Treasurer's Report was approved by the meeting. Phil Hooks proposed and this was seconded by Stuart Gullen.	
7	<p><u>Future developments</u> Andy Riby, the secretary, outlined the priorities for the next year.</p> <p>He explained that the Trust didn't have enough volunteers to continue undertaking projects at the pace of 2018 as it relies on a very small and dedicated but ageing band of volunteers. So for 2019, it will generally be the case of steady as she goes, looking after what we've got.</p> <p>The trustees will be making a determined effort to secure the future of the Green. The priority for 2019 will be to try to recruit some younger and fitter volunteers to spread the workload and provide candidates to succeed our older trustees. There are three prongs to this strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Tool store</u> This should help make volunteering for the Green a more attractive proposition. We will always have the right tools to hand, and no longer have to ask volunteers to store equipment at home and transport it to the Green. Having a briefing area out of the elements will be a great luxury. While there are sufficient funds to build the store, additional funds are being sought to kit out the tool store with racking. Andy asked anyone who could help design or even build these fittings to get in touch. <p>Stuart Gullen offered to donate a petrol driven generator to the Green, while Sir Alan Meale offered some racking.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <u>Facebook page</u> We're told this could generate hundreds of contacts for the Green and should help with recruitment. Andy appealed for help to set up Facebook, and Gill Grievson offered to advise. 3. <u>Community events</u> Following the success of the Three Oaks project, the trustees intended to try to get more community involvement in the Green by holding more social events. A couple of ideas so far are to hold a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teddy bear's picnic, and • Apple pressing day. It was suggested we hold this event on Apple Day in October in conjunction with St Edmund's church. <p>Andy then asked for comments on the future direction of the Green.</p> <p><u>Pond or a wetland area</u> Dave Oliver suggested this to help wildlife and offered to manage the project. Irene Bacon expressed concern about children's safety, and Gill Grievson suggested fencing and signs would have to be put up. Andy wondered if such a pond might change the character of the Green, which is traditionally grassland with trees. Practical difficulties of where to site a pond were discussed. The trustees agreed to carefully consider the proposal, and to consult with volunteers and the community before proceeding.</p>	All
8	<p><u>Question time</u> No questions were forthcoming so Ann Walter closed the meeting after thanking everyone for attending and participating.</p>	