

## Castlefields Canal and River Park Association (CARP)

### Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 23rd March, 2017, at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Calne Town Hall

|                 |                |      |                  |
|-----------------|----------------|------|------------------|
| <b>Present:</b> | Denis Robinson | DR   | Chair            |
|                 | Debbie Smith   | DS   | Trustee          |
|                 | Dee Robinson   | DeeR | Trustee          |
|                 | Julie Wakeham  | JW   | Committee Member |
|                 | Sue Court      | SC   | Secretary        |
|                 | Martin Court   | MC   | Trustee          |
|                 | Karen Boswell  | KB   | Trustee          |
|                 | Mo Norrington  | MN   | Trustee          |
|                 | Tim Preece     | TP   | Treasurer        |

1. **Apologies:** Martin Boswell.
2. **Minutes of the Last meeting:** held on the 12th January, 2017, agreed.
3. **Matters Arising:** None.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance £2351.26. £500 ringfenced for future gym equipment. Cheque to Flying Pig cake emporium has not yet been cashed. KB will investigate.
5. **Correspondence:**

**Rugby Tickets:** now received. Value £21 per ticket (x2). KB will try to sell by auction. MN may be able to dispose of them.

**St. Mary's request for stewards/volunteers:** Committee decided that we would not be able to provide 20 volunteers. SC will contact St. Mary's.

**Woodlands:** email received from MN regarding redevelopment of Woodlands and draft Neighbourhood plan. It is noted that in the plan it states "*Develop the now defunct, Woodlands Social Club site, sympathetically and with due regard to the constraints of the listed part of the buildings, to provide a community facility with tourist/visitor parking, bicycle hire, toilets and refreshment facilities. Designate as a gateway to Castlefields and provide signed routes through the Castlefields River walk to the town centre and other existing leisure amenities of Castlefields*". This is an important inclusion for CARP and we should monitor any future proposals for Woodlands.

**Canal Event:** Proposal from CTC to hold a boating event on the canal during the summer festival 24th June, 2017. An invitation to CARP hold a fundraising activity at the same time. Agreed this would be a good idea. SC will liaise with CTC.

**Calne Heritage Week:** email from CTC asking if CARP would like to host an event in the park during the week 4th - 10th September, 2017. This could take the form of a guided walk or similar. MN will check with Peter Knight to see if he intends to do any walks in Castlefields during this time.

**Email from Mala Tu:** CARP member, Mala emailed suggesting possible events in the park which could include celebration of the history of the town. Committee welcomed the input, but it was probably too ambitious for CARP to undertake at this time. SC will reply to Mala.

6. **Community Involvement:**

**Britain in Bloom:** BinB thanked volunteers who helped with the clean up in early March. Plant and Seed swap stall will take place on Duck race day, 13th May, 2017. Castlefields is entered in the "Its your Neighbourhood" category of B in B. After discussion, decided not to enter Pride in Parks or the Green Flag scheme.

**Safety Forum:** KB reported Neighbourhood policing is now "Community Policing". However, it is important to note that all incidents of vandalism etc., in the park must be reported to the police on 101 and a crime number obtained. There has been a significant increase in thefts and break-ins in the town. Members are strongly advised to take extra security precautions. There has been an increase in dog fouling but as yet no fines have been imposed on owners. A new initiative is being considered to highlight the problem with dog paint. The initiative is meant to emphasise to the

community, just how big the problem is and support change. Agreed that CARP will participate in this initiative. KB explained the "Man Shed" initiative and asked for any suggestions for projects for the men. Suggested re-painting the boat and construction of small doors for a fairy trail. KB to liaise.

**Easter Bunny Hunt:** KB briefed on progress so far. It was agreed that 50p per child would be made. Event to take place on 15th April, 2017 from 2-4 p.m. Volunteer helpers are required for the day.

7. **Well Dressing:** DS briefed the committee on her investigations in to Well Dressing. Local people with experience of Well Dressing had proposed a full dressing of the well and a ceremonial walk to the location. After discussion it was felt that this plan was too ambitious at present. It was agreed that a simplified dressing using willow arch be investigated to take place on the day of the summer festival, 24th June, 2017. DS will continue to pursue.
8. **Mound Walls:** The deterioration in the newly reconstructed mound walls is a cause of great concern. It is noted that the contractor is responsible for remedial repairs for 12 months and will return to the site to carry these out. Drainage in the area adjacent to the lock is not working satisfactorily. CTC is seeking alternative methods of drainage for this area. No new planting will take place until after this is resolved. However, grass cutting will continue. Phase 2 area i.e. west of Chaveywell. CTC officer to produce a draft document for presentation to the council for consideration. It is unlikely any work will take place in this area in 2017.
9. **Gym Equipment:** Lease agreement has been reviewed by an independent solicitor on CARP's behalf. Two significant comments that the word "agreement" should be amended to "deed" before signature and that an extra paragraph be added making it CTC's responsibility to remove the equipment and make good the area should they not wish to take ownership of the equipment after the three year lease agreement. Subject to these amendments it was agreed that the document could be signed. Thanks to MB for obtaining this legal advice. Area Board has granted £5400 of matched funding towards the cost of extra equipment. An application to Tesco's Bags of Help has been submitted and the results will be known 3 months.
10. **AOB:** Chair asked for suggestions for seeds for the wildflower circle. It was agreed to purchased a cornfield annual mixture. KB asked for prizes for the winter festival.
11. **Next working Party: 9th April, 2017 and 7th May, 2017.**
12. **Date of Next Meeting: 18th May, 2017.**