**FRIENDS OF MIDSUMMER COMMON**

**COMMITTEE MEETING ON 25 APRIL 2023 (by Zoom)**

In attendance: Kit Holland (Chair), Jeremy Francis (Treasurer), Peter Gotham (Membership Secretary), Inbali Iserles, Rosica Bates, Belinda Sinclair

Apologies: Steve Cheek

Kit welcomed Belinda as a new member of the committee.

1. **Communications**
   1. Newsletter

* Rosica has a rough draft of the Spring/Summer newsletter. Kit will work on this with her with a view to finalising and sending to the printers soon. **Action: Kit/Rosica**
* Kit will ask the printers if the colour on the printed version can be improved. **Action: Kit**
* It is now about three years since we started delivering printed copies in the local area. We think we have covered the most likely streets (i.e. excluding those more likely to associate with Logan’s Meadow or Jesus Green) but we have not been keeping detailed records. Jeremy will prepare a summary of what we have done so far and make a proposal for future distribution. **Action: Jeremy**
* We agreed that we should continue with two newsletters each year, with the Autumn newsletter being distributed before Apple Day and the AGM.

**1.2** Website

Kit has updated the website for information about committee members, and made sure that all relevant documents are there (e.g. committee meetings, and AGMs). We need someone to update the events information. **Action: Kit**

**1.3** Membership list

Peter has continued to work on the membership records. There are 192 current members. Information on members (and also on former members) is securely stored using Mailchimp , with additional information recorded on an Excel file maintained by Peter. **Action: Peter**

1. **Orchard**
   1. S.106 works:

* Kit reported that, despite being assured several times that the contractors were due to start work shortly, nothing has happened yet. She will continue to press this by contacting various local councillors for support. **Action: Kit**
* The works so far agreed are expected to cost less that the award of £15,000. We do not yet know how the balance of the award is to be spent. **Action: Kit**
  1. Woody waste and woodchip: Kit is still trying to arrange for the collection of the woody waste in the orchard, and delivery of a load of woodchip, but Kenny (council tree officer) has been too busy to organise this. **Action: Kit**
  2. Some new hedging (Pomegranate) has been planted in front of the flats where the tree was taken down. Some of the plants have died and need to be replaced. **Action: Kit**

1. **Pound next to the restaurant**
   1. Kit reported that the Councillors that she has approached have all been supportive of the plan to develop this area as a garden. The appropriate time to start would be the autumn, and we would need a management plan prepared before proceeding. Kit would not have the time to take responsibility for this project, and committee members were asked to consider the issues with a view to deciding at the next committee meeting whether we should proceed with this.Note that we have made no provision in the 2023/24 budget for any costs relating to this. **Action: All**
2. **Main Common**
   1. Midsummer Fair: Kit and Peter attended a meeting on 20 March with Councillors arranged by Charlie Hattersley and the de Freville Estate Residents Group to discuss issues arising from the 2022 event, and planning for the 2023 event, due to start on 21 June. The main issues are the closure of the Fort St George bridge during the event (agreed by councillors) and the provision of toilets. Concern was expressed about the inability to obtain a crime report from the police. Jeremy offered to contact the police to see if they would be able to provide this information directly to us. **Action: Jeremy**
3. **Finance**
   1. Mowing grant: We have had no response from Alistair Wilson on the mowing grant due for 2022/23. Jeremy will discuss next steps with Kit. **Action: Jeremy/Kit**
   2. Budget for 2023/24: The proposed budget for 2023/24 was submitted by Jeremy to committee members before the meeting. This was agreed by the committee.
   3. Monitoring report for 2022/23: This has been drafted and needs to be submitted to the Council by 30 April. **Action: Jeremy/Kit**
   4. Grant for 2023/24: The council have awarded us a grant of £1,000 for 2023/24 (£900 in 2022/23). The committee authorised Jeremy to notify the council that we accept this award. **Action: Jeremy**