

**FRIENDS OF NORTHENDEN RIVERSIDE PARK  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – THURSDAY 10  
JUNE 2010**

1. **Welcome** (Gwyneth).
2. **Apologies:** Dave Bishop, Catherine Causer, Val Harrington, Alan Hill, Mike Kane.
3. **Review of Past Year's activities (Gwyneth).** All in all a very busy and successful year, main activities/achievements:-

Heron sculpture: Very well received by all and a special thank you to Phil Bews and to Gavin Evans (former park warden) for suggesting Phil as the sculptor. Naming the heron competition officially launched (see point 7.)

Green Flag Award 2009.

Grants success: Sense of Place and U Decide. Money to be spent on creating a storytelling area and a new piece of play equipment for pre-schoolers, possibly a boat or playhouse. .

Canoe cabin erected and in use.

Several bird and bat boxes placed around the park, more hopefully planned soon.

Heritage Day September 2009: Very successful and well attended. Plans for 2010 (11<sup>th</sup> September) currently under discussion, storyteller confirmed and suggestions for more craft activities including making skipping ropes and willow weaving. To be discussed in more detail at next meeting.

Trans Pennine Trail. Closer links developed and as the 'lone ranger' in Northenden, Gwyneth asked for other volunteers to assist. Sadly, the TPT sign had been burnt down but Steve confirmed that this was being refurbished and would be replaced shortly. The TPT is celebrating 21 years this year and various events were planned including a bike relay and brass band at Jackson's Wharf and representatives from the TPT had been invited to our Heritage Day in September.

Future plans/ideas for the park: Organised walks along river, plant swap events possibly with Marie Louise Gardens, Fletcher Moss, Tai Chi classes. However, Gwyneth stressed that the group acknowledged that any future developments within the park would take into account the views and wishes of local residents.

4. **Treasurer's Report & Approval of Annual Accounts (Anna).** \* See reports from Anna.

5. **Appointment of Accounts Examiner for 2010/11: Mavis Chapman.**

6. **Election of Officers:**

Chair: Gwyneth Lloyd re-elected for 2010/11.

Vice-Chair: Papa Andoh-Kweku: re-elected for 2010/11.

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Anna Bunney re-elected for 2010/11.

Minutes Secretary: Lynne Oldfield re-elected for 2010/11 (until Amy returns!).

Correspondence Secretary: All the group to assist with this as a temporary arrangement until Amy Carline returns.

Committee Members willing to serve again in 2010/11: Cllr Sandra Bracegirdle, Cllr Mary di Mauro, Conor Jerram, Dave Wilson, Joan Mycock, Amy Carline.

7. **Future plans for the park (Steve West):**

Short term:-

Bench around horse chestnut trees to be fitted in the next week (now in place!).

2 x new litter bins to be installed shortly, one to replace the damaged one near the park bench and a new one for the top of the path next to the bench.

New planting scheme: Robert will be sending out plans for this to the group in the near future. The plans will include fruit bushes/trees which would be planted around November time. Steve/Robert will be recruiting help from local primary schools for some of the proposed planting schemes. Also plans to plant around the base of the heron sculpture and the large rocks (which may be moved). Robert will arrange a site visit before any decisions for the planting around the heron and boulders are confirmed.

Under 5's play equipment (from grant money). Will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Green Flag Award 2010 – to be judged by a mystery visit this year! Steve would inform the group as soon as he hears any news on this.

Heritage Day: Canoeing activity: Steve meeting with Paul Heaton soon to discuss this and will report back.

Longer term plans:-

Steve said that future plans were dependent on available funding. However, the priorities would be the creation of the under 5's play area at the Camperlands Car Park end of the park, then plans for development of the north side of the riverbank. The under 5's play area would be costed in the near future.

Proposed skateboarding park (question raised by Dave following on from recent press articles and a phone call from a concerned local resident). Steve confirmed that plans for this were very much in their infancy and would involve liaison with several different agencies, including Highways. Lynne Robertson from the architecture department was currently working on a feasibility study for this as there were a number of issues to be addressed: foremost whether the area was large enough and suitable for this kind of use. It was also important that the council learn from other similar projects across the city. In answer to further questions regarding this, Steve confirmed there would be a proper consultation with local residents before any plans were put in place and there would be a need for full planning permission for this.

#### **8. Announcement of the “Name the Heron” Competition:**

Leaflets would be printed and distributed to local primary schools before the end of the school term. Leaflets would also be displayed in local shop windows, including so far the Children's Society charity shop and Northern Fruits/butchers.

Children would be asked to name the heron and to state the reason chosen for the name. Three entries would be chosen and the winner announced at the Heritage Day, although all three chosen would receive a prize. Asda had kindly offered to provide vouchers as prizes. Once the name is selected, Phil Bews would make a plaque for the heron.

#### **9. Other business:**

Oral history project (Dave). Dave confirmed that the project had been very successful. The group had interviewed approximately 12 local people to date and were currently transcribing the interviews. The plan was to possibly merge sections of these interviews to create one 'story'. It was hoped that the story could be presented/told in some form at the Heritage Day this year.

Anti-social behaviour: Julian (PCSO) said that there had been several incidents involving local youths on the park but confirmed that they were policing the park regularly and moving youths on and seizing alcohol when found. Regarding concerns re inappropriate behaviour within the public toilets, Julian stressed that it was important that any concerned residents contacted the police as action could only be taken if any such incidents were reported. It was generally agreed by all at the meeting that regular use of the toilets by users of the park would hopefully help to prevent occurrences in the future.

Bus stop sign: Gwyneth again suggested the idea of ‘naming’ the bus stop near the garage as the ‘Northenden Riverside Park’ stop. Hazel Keyes asked that someone from the group email her with this suggestion and she would ensure this was discussed at the next ward meeting in September (discuss at next meeting).

Northenden weir electricity generator: Rev Greg Forster reported that this idea was still afloat (!! ) and that he should have more news on the feasibility of this later in the year.