



## **Extraordinary General Meeting re The Future of Parkinson's Park Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 Guiseley Methodist Church 7.15pm.**

### **Minutes**

#### **In Attendance**

Richard Lamb, David Myers, Ann van de Kastele, Barbara Winfield, Joanna Brooks, Nicola Denson, Councillor Pat Latty, Councillor Graham Latty, Liakat Parapia, Steve Magson, Chris Parapia Chairperson, Jennifer Kirkby Vice Chair, Roger Halliwell, Andrew Price, Colin Alexander, Peter Branney, David Alcock, Vivien Hornsby-Smith

#### **Apologies**

Andrew Cheetham, Martyn Hornsby-Smith, Nick Ashcroft, Bill Hudson sent their apologies

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. She explained that we need to decide the future of Parkinson's Park now that Bellways have left the site and in the light of new proposals being presented to FOPP. She introduced Andrew Price from Milner's solicitors and explained that he has agreed to provide legal assistance free of charge to the Friends of Parkinson's Park and will answer any legal questions posed at the meeting.

#### **Overview of Current Situation**

Chris and Jenny gave an overview of the current situation

Parkinson's Park currently belongs to Bellway Homes, the developers/builders of the Edison Fields Estate completed at the beginning of this year. Bellways have now left the site.

Meadfleet Management Company took over the "management" of the site from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015

Residents of the Edison Fields Estate will be required to pay an annual sum of we think ? £125-140 for the upkeep of formal and informal areas of the site.

This has not yet happened but is likely to happen in the Spring of 2016.

**In June** this year Meadfleet MD Paul Miller invited FOPP CP and JK to a meeting to discuss future arrangements. He proposed that FOPP take over the management and possibly ownership/leasing of the site area known as Parkinson's Park

Mr Miller proposed giving £3000 per annum to FOPP to manage Parkinson's Park either by facilitating a 99 year lease or transfer of ownership.

FOPP committee discussed in detail and agreed to research in detail before jumping in to a decision. Over the summer months information was sought. In summary

**August 2015 :** Fields in Trust came to speak to FOPP committee.

**September 2015 :** Andrew Price partner Milner's Solicitor's in Leeds kindly agreed to help us with legal advice at no cost and attended FOPP committee meeting .

Advice re what sort of status FOPP should become sought from Wrigley's Solicitors in Leeds and Leeds Voluntary Action

FOPP to become either a Registered Charity or a Community Interest Company

**October 2015 :** Further meeting held with Paul Miller, Andrew Price and (Bill Hudson supporting CP and JK) at Milner's office in Leeds

Meadfleet will pay £3000 per annum for maintenance plus a sum for insurance to insure the land.

Option to facilitate leasing or ownership by FOPP. Decision to be given by end of November 2015.

Decision to consult members of FOPP via Extraordinary General Meeting.

**What will happen to Parkinson's Park if we decide against.**

Minimum maintenance will be undertaken by Meadfleet eg grass to be cut once or twice per annum.

Projects will be left unattended and park will deteriorate with upsurge of anti-social behaviour, vandalism, drug dealing and dog fouling

No events will be allowed on the park eg Gala and Lantern Parade so community engagement and participation will be lost

**Community Groups**

Open Country voluntary group who have worked on the park regularly will cease.

Otley Dry Stone Wallers will not be allowed

Development of bog garden, wildflower area, community orchard etc will cease.

Options for play within the park will be lost

Paths will not be improved

FOPP will fold

**Options**

Advice from Andrew Price

To obtain our aims FOPP should take on ownership of Parkinson's Park

No real advantage to having a 99 year lease

Change of status to be sought to prevent Trustees/Directors from having any personal liability

Once ownership achieved Parkinson's Park to be nominated to become a Field in Trust to ensure preservation in perpetuity

A number of questions were asked from the floor about the legal options which Andrew answered in full including the benefit to FOPP of ownership and the long term benefits to the local community.

**Timescales**

Decision to be communicated to Paul Miller MD Meadfleet by end of November

Paul Miller will commence discussion with Bellways re facilitating change of ownership

FOPP will undertake change of status

Legal Agreement will be signed to transfer ownership

FOPP to nominate Parkinson's Park as Field in Trust

### **Discussion and Questions**

A full debate then took place about any costs involved, these should be minimal, whether the land would change its status, the role that Leeds City Council could play in providing assistance re a funding plan in particular parks and countryside department, the advantages and disadvantages of becoming either a charity( Charitable Incorporated Organisation) or a Community Interest Company

### **Voting**

1 We propose that FOPP decide to pursue owning Parkinson's Park

Proposed by JAK, seconded by David Myers

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the resolution

2 We propose that FOPP should change its status to that of either a Community Interest Company or a Registered Charity and that the decision to be delegated to FOPP committee to pursue

Proposed by Councillor Graham Latty and seconded by Liakat Parapia and Steve Magson

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the resolution

3 The meeting voted unanimously to keep the name Friends of Parkinson's Park

CP and JK and all committee members were thanked for their contributions so far.

The meeting then closed and refreshments were served.