

2022 - 2023 Annual General Meeting of Liquorice Park Millennium Green Trust 30th April 2024, 7 pm

Draft Approval for
Public Circulation

Held – The Victoria, union Rd, Lincoln

Present: Trustees; Phil Cragg (Chair), Richard Bayles (Treasurer), Alison Griffiths
Penny Toone. David Royle
+ 12 members of the public (see list page 2)

		ACTION
1	Apologies	
	None	
2	Previous Minutes	
	2022/2023 AGM Minutes (held 26 th April 2023) were approved as a true record. Proposed: A Griffiths, Seconded: R Bayles	
3	Matters Arising	
	None	
4	Chairman’s Report	
	Overview of year – P Cragg gave an overview of the 22/23 year (Copy Attached, page 3) – No questions/issues raised	
5	Treasures Report	
	R Bayles presented the 2022-2023 end of year accounts. No objections raised. He then set out the 2023 – 2024 proposed projects and an analysis of the financial risks (Copy Attached, page 5).	
	Financial summary document will be added to the park’s web site once the provisional minutes have been approved.	RB
6	Volunteer Report	
	A Griffiths presented the report (Copy Attached, page 8). No questions/issues raised	

7	A.O.B / Discussion	
	M. Marsh stated possibility of another Lush Cosmetics Charity Pot event provisionally pencilled in for w/end prior to the open day 15/16 th June. Assistance will be required on the Sat/Sun (7 hrs approx.) to explain what the parks about etc. In addition documentation for the event needs completing. RB agreed to do this.	RB
	J. Walsh suggested several ideas; - He knows a contact at Siren Radio who has offered to publise events on the "Whats on Diary", on their Sunday show. - Promoting the Lincoln writer's weeks and possible meetings in the park. Currently meet on 3rd Sunday of the month. - Organise formal tours of the park with wildlife experts.	
	Concern raised at meeting again regarding the Manor Crest site and state of dis-repair and danger. L Preston confirmed that the council were aware but she would have another word. However very difficult to do very much about it.	L Preston
	C Rawson & P Mann introduced themselves as the custodians of the Joiners Arms. They had a number of potential ideas and suggestions for the use, improvements and fund raising for the park (outdoor classes with schools - use contact pastoral officers and learning mentors, addition of bat boxes, Contacting homeschooling groups and encouraging use of the park for education) as well as offering the services of the Joiners Arms (i.e. meetings, allotment use, Ideas, Posters etc.). All agree this was what working as a community was about and the park would form a closer working link with them.	
	Request for a bird/wildlife board somewhere in the park showing/listing all the animals/birds etc.	
	P Cragg asked what the views were on the current balance of the park. All agreed it was about right.	
	Received via e-mail were requests for; - Community noticeboard (at the herb garden or nearby) -The steps at the Alexandra Terrace end get easily flooded when it rains. Would it be possible to drill holes near the top of the risers, so puddles can drain?	
8	Meeting Closed approx. 8:00 PM	
9	List of Public Attendees.	
	Lucinda Preston (Councillor) Helena Buckle Jenny Palmer Sue Parker John Walsh Isla Davies	Paul Griffiths David Willows Mel Marsh Sharon Shaw Paul Mann Carol Rawson

RB 1/5/24

Chairman's report AGM 2024

This is my sixth AGM as Chairman and the AGM is an opportunity for us all to look back on another lovely year in the park. For me, on a sunny day like today, I think there are few places that beat Liquorice Park for its feeling of serenity and calm.

The past year

2023

We have all enjoyed a solid year, happily without too many crises. For once this year was largely without incident and overall, I feel good progress has been made thanks, as ever, to all the hard work from our great band of volunteers.

I can't forget to mention some new residents that have set up in the Park. last year it was the tadpoles who appeared in the pool but this year we saw our first Roebuck Deer. I think he was just passing through but it was great to see.

Thankyou's

Once again, we have benefited from generous grants from the Co Op and the Lincoln City Council which have enabled us to refurbish the performance area as well as enabling us to replace all the signage across the park. So now, whichever entrance is chosen there is a ready supply of useful information available for the reader.

As well as maintaining the various pathways across the park for the public we have done a large amount of work in clearing the allotment area of debris and rusty metal which have accumulated over many years. We hope shortly to be able to declare the area safe for the public to enjoy. It's a difficult job and I want to pay particular tribute to the volunteers that have given up their time to do this. Next year we will need to decide exactly how we use the allotment area. Your comments and ideas will, as ever, be much appreciated.

In addition, those of you with eagle eyes will have noticed that the wall on the southern boundary near the bus stop has been repaired over the last two months. I would like to thank the Lincolnshire County Council for their decision to accept responsibility for maintaining the wall and keeping it safe. Very much appreciated by the trustees.

Over the year various events have been put on in the Park and it has been fantastic to see so many members of the community joining in and enjoying the place. One of the highlights to me was the Community Day last year when the park was buzzing with activity, steam punks, stalls, performance poets and wonderful music. It was a truly memorable day and the numbers of people attending was huge. For those that missed it there was even a wonderful video made of the day which is on our website. The whole thing was organised and coordinated by Mel Marsh and I want to say a special thank you to her for all the hard work she put into creating a beautiful and memorable day for all. Thanks Mel.

Another thank you I have to make is tinged with sadness. Over the years one of the stalwarts of the park was the City and latterly County Councillor, Rob Parker. Rob was

always there for us as trustees. And there were many occasions when we needed his time and advice. He never let us down and it was with huge sadness that we heard that he had died at the end of 2023. Rob loved the Park and we loved him. We are hugely proud that in the summer we will be having a new bench erected at the top of the Park looking down on the City. And that bench will be inscribed with Robs name and dedicated to him, ensuring that his memory and inspiration will live on.

Just to finish the thankyou's I would like to thank the Community payback volunteers, ably stewarded by trustee David Royle and all our volunteers who turn up on a Wednesday and Sunday without fail. Its lovely to see the range of ages and personalities involved, all working together to make the Park what it is. And of course, huge thanks go from me to my fellow trustees David, Alison, Penny and Richard who put so much time and effort into the Park, with enthusiasm and without complaint.

We have a lot to look forward to next year. A new community day is in the planning for the summer and other events will be taking place from time to time. The next event for the diary is on the 6th May at 12 noon when the University Arts department will be putting on a Maypole dance. You can join in if you wish or watch if you prefer.

So finally, thank you all for your support of the Park over the last year. Thank you for coming this evening and thank you for continuing to give us great ideas which we always do our best to take on board.

Phil Cragg

Chair

30.4.24

Liquorice Park Millennium Green Trust

Annual Accounts - 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024



Brought forward

Co-operative account	£6,874.54
Petty cash	£49.25

Income

Personal / cash donations	£45.00
Co-op Community Champions	£860.93
Lush Fund Raiser	£210.00
Bethan (Iron & Pin Tattoo)	£200.00
PayPal Giving Fund	£183.14
Lincoln City Council Grant	£1,250.00
Community Open day Donations	£415.31
Correction of incorrect payment	£0.10

Expenditure

		Materials for Step Repairs	£441.85
		General Repairs	£165.17
		Public Liability & Indemnity Insurance	£249.16
		Open Day Expenses	£129.98
		Performance Area Refurbishment (Pt1)	£400.00
		Tools & Equipment	£46.48
		Water Bill	£114.50
		Refreshments & Equipment	£57.44
		Plants & Topiary Cutting	£90.96
		New Signage	£849.75
		Safeguarding Training	£81.00
		Petty Cash Purchases	£90.00
Donated Item Contributions	£545.00	Donated Items Inventory	£545.00
Income via PayPal account	£210.00	From PayPal to main Account	£210.00
To Petty Cash from Main Account	£140.00	From Main Account to Petty Cash	£140.00
		<u>Carry Forward</u>	
		Co-operative Account	£7,272.73
		Petty cash	£99.25
		PayPal Account	
Totals	£10,983.27		£10,983.27

Notes:

- Overall Income for year = £3165
- Overall outgoings for year = £2766
- Main Account Surplus / Deficit for year = +£398

Ring Fenced Monies

- £1000 for Viewing Platform Materials.
- £3250 for Performance Area.
- £1000 for Operating contingency (in line with Charity Commission guidance).
- £500 emergency operating pot



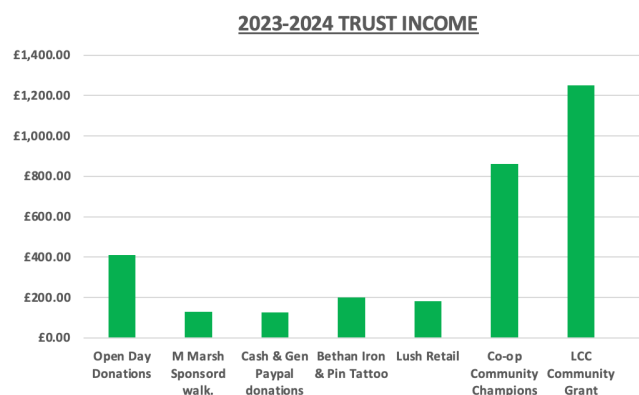
2023 - 2024 End of Year Financial Accounts Report

Accounts/Cash – Over the last financial year the accounts show an overall increase in funds of £448, with the final figures being:

- Co-op account £7272, an increase of £398
- Petty Cash fund £99, an increase of £50.
- PayPal Account £0

This shows a very healthy balance. However, it should be noted that work has been carried out on the Performance area with £3029 due to be paid in early 24/25. We have also ring fenced £2500 for future projects, along with contingencies (see later).

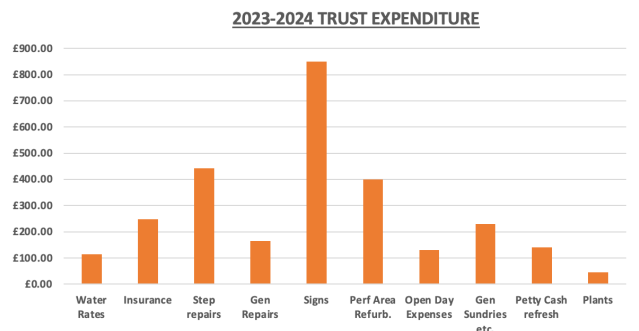
Incomes (£3164) - Main income continues to be via grants and donations with £1250 from LCC and £861 from the Co-op. The open day was also a great success with £410 raised via donations and associated events (£183 from Lush and £200 from Iron & Pin tattoo). We also received approx. £225 from other sources such as cash donations and Mels sponsored walk etc.



Donations in Kind (£545) - Non-monetary donations continue to be recorded and added to the accounts. The total figure is shown on both sides of the accounts as Contributions and Inventory. The largest donation this year being approx. 3 tonnes of Breedon gravel for use on the steps and performance area as well as a voucher for £150 for bulbs.

As always, many thanks to all those contributing to the park finances, both monetary and non-monetary. Without this support we could not maintain the park.

Expenses (£2766) – The biggest expenses were £850 for the new signage, £440 on materials for step repairs, £400 for phase 1 of the Performance Area refurbishment, £235 for public liability and indemnity Insurance, £130 for Open day expenses, £114 for water rates. £165 for General repairs.





Ring Fenced Monies (£2500) – Comprising:

- £1000 ring fenced for Viewing Platform repair / replacement. This is made up from a £500 donation in FY 19/20, and £500 allocated from 21/22 Co-op donation.
- £1000 ring fenced for operating reserve (see applicable heading below).
- £500 ring fenced for possible emergency costs (tree surgeons for example). Note – Trustees agreed not to add to this fund during FY23/24.

Operating Reserves - The agreed minimum amount that we should hold in the current account to cater for unforeseen circumstances is £1000. At the end of the 2023-2024 year this has been achieved.

Equipment – Cost of equipment owned by the Trust is estimated to be approximately £475.

Future, Year 2024-2025, as of 1/4/2024

Income

Grants / funding will be applied for as opportunities / needs arise.

Potential income sources:

- Planning open day in June 2024.

Major Expenditure

Several projects have been agreed and are either on-going or yet to start:

- Replacement / Repair of Viewing Platform. Currently £1000 ringfence for materials.
- Step repairs (mainly eastern steps, although we are suffering water damage to the western steps). Currently £300 allocated out of general funds.

Financial Risks

- Current on-going & planned projects (excluding Yarborough Rd retaining walls); These are all considered to be within our current financial capability and therefore low financial risk.

- Retaining Wall; Concerns over the integrity of the lower eastern end section of the Yarborough Rd boundary wall are high financial risk. Long term future expenditure therefore currently unknown and highly likely to be outside our current financial capabilities. Expenditure would require specific fund raising.

- Viewing Platform; With £1000 ringfenced we are hopeful this will cover materials and is therefore considered a low financial risk. Labour is planned to be provided by Lincoln college.

LIQUORICE PARK MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST

AGM

April 30th 2024

Alison Griffiths -Volunteers Co-ordinator

Despite some challenging weather conditions over the past year, causing more cancelled sessions than in previous years, the support and enthusiasm of stalwart volunteers has been maintained. The slope of the land and the clay soil has created difficult conditions and heavy rain has caused erosion of paths and steps. A shortage of woodchip due to tree disease meant that the paths became more waterlogged than usual which will take time to resolve.

The two flights of steps are an ongoing maintenance task for volunteers, especially Paul and Richard, with the rainwater damage causing some safety concerns. Since the steps were originally constructed in 2000, they have been a continual problem due to their design. Hopefully by using metal re-bar stobbs as supports, rather than wood, will increase their longevity.

As is the nature of volunteering, there will always be an ongoing turnover, due to changes in peoples' personal circumstances – students moving away, employment changes, ill health and a plethora of other reasons. Despite this, the volunteer numbers remain at around twenty regulars and several more who attend when they can. It is always gratifying when ex-volunteers come back to visit and say hello and frequently saying how much their time spent in the park had meant to them.

Other volunteers include The Probation service, the Lincoln Conservation Volunteers, Geochachers and other groups, their support to the park is very much appreciated.

The age range of volunteers ranges from 19 to over 70 – the average age being reduced over the past year with young volunteers from the Network Organisation which assists unemployed young adults in gaining confidence leading to employment. Seven young people have volunteered this year and it is rewarding to see how their social skills increase - several have now successfully obtained employment. They also quickly learned to look forward to the refreshment break and easily entered into the ritual of biscuits and homemade cakes!! A big thank you to our bakers!!

A Christmas social was held for the first time last year and proved to be a great success as it gave the “Wednesday” and “Sunday” volunteers an opportunity to get to know each other –

there was enough food brought to feed an army and a donation of sloe gin, made from the fruit in the park. helped to make it a jolly occasion.

The open day last June, organised by Mel Marsh and her many wonderful helpers, was a huge success, not only bringing the community together but also raising a substantial donation to the Park's funds. Another open day is planned for Sunday 23rd June this year, this time with the weight of the organisation being taken on by Charlie and Daniella with invaluable support from Mel.

As well as organising the next open day, Charlie and Daniella bravely have taken on regenerating the old very neglected allotment. They are making great progress and have some exciting plans for its future.

Liquorice Park is a little gem of a green space and continues to be a valuable resource to both all members of the community and to wildlife and it is thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who make great efforts to ensure that it continues to be a very special place for all to enjoy and feel safe in.

A big thank you to you all.