

2021- 2022 Annual General Meeting of Liquorice Park Millennium Green Trust 4th April 2022, 7 pm

Draft Approval for
Public Circulation

Held – Lion & Snake, Bailgate, Lincoln

Present: Trustees; Phil Cragg (Chair), Richard Bayles (Treasurer), Alison Griffiths
Penny Toone.
+ 9 members of the public (see list page 3)

		ACTION
1	Apologies	
	David Royle (Trustee), Bob Speck.	
2	Previous Minutes	
	Due to Covid restrictions previous financial years AGM was held as a Zoom meeting (22/11/2021) with trustee's only present. Minutes were approved as a true record. Proposed: RB, Seconded: AG	
3	Matters Arising	
	None	
4	Chairman's Report	
4a	<p>AGM Date Change - The following resolution was proposed by the Trustees for approval by the members attending the Public Meeting.</p> <p><i>"The resolution is that the Annual General meeting of the Liquorice Park Millennium Green Trust should henceforth be held in the month of April or as soon as practicable thereafter each year"</i></p> <p>It was explained that the park deeds state the AGM should be held in September or as soon as practicable after. However the Trustees believe aligning the AGM to the start of the next financial year make presenting the park finances much clearer and useful for the public and trustees.</p> <p>There was no expression of dissent, so a vote was not required. The resolution was therefore passed.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note – It was agreed R Bayles would update the Charity Commission with the deed change.</p>	RB
4b	Overview of year – P Cragg gave an overview of the previous year (Copy Attached, page 4)	
5	Treasures Report	

	<p>R Bayles presented the 2021-2022 end of year accounts. No objections raised. He then set out the 2022 – 2023 proposed projects and an analysis of the financial risks (Copy Attached, page 6).</p> <p>Financial summary document will also be added to the park's web site. Offer also made for anyone not using the internet, if they wish to provide their name and address, a copy would be posted to them if they wished. No one at meeting required this.</p>	
	<p>Concern raised at meeting regarding Manor Crest Boundary and state of dis-repair (debris collapsing into park) and if we need to do anything which was not accounted for. Councillor Parker stated he had only recently raised the issue of the site, and lack of progress with building, with the City Council. No response yet.</p> <p>It was agreed that currently we need to do nothing with the boundary, except continue to monitor.</p>	
6	Volunteer Report	
	<p>A Griffiths presented the report (Copy Attached, page 9).</p>	
	<p>J Walsh wished to give a personal thank-you to Isla Davies for her kindness and care after his fall in the park. This included taking him home.</p>	
7	Survey	
	<p>P Cragg presented the January 2022 survey summary, provided by I Davies. (Copy Attached, page 10). Next survey is likely to be more quantitative to get a feel on specific issues.</p>	
	<p>Suggestion we consider using website / social media to show what we're doing because of the survey. People are likely to be more pro-active with future surveys if they see action being taken.</p>	Trustees
	<p>Discussion on how / if we expand knowledge of the park to the greater community and how far we should go particularly for the younger community. Agreed use of Instagram, word of mouth, university contacts, and Dahlia's regular contribution to the Lincoln Independent were all very good and probably enough for the time being. However new suggestions always welcome.</p>	
	<p>All attendees agreed with the survey summary and the balance of the park (nature vs community access) is just about right.</p>	
	<p>Discussion on performance area and how to get more community involvement (Events, plays etc.). Trustees re-iterated their role was to provide an area suitable for performances and then it was generally for the community to organise events. Once area is improved, as per planned project, it was suggested a volunteer event co-ordinator, or work party, could be set up to talk to those that may wish to organise something (University Groups, residents etc).</p>	
8	A.O.B	
	<p>Suggestion on volunteers carrying out a nature survey and using park map to define areas and what's present. Alex agreed to take on this role, whilst co-ordinating with Trustee David Royle, who has been liaising with the university.</p>	Trustees Alex

	R Bayles has calculated approximate areas of different habitats which can possibly be used, in conjunction with a map or photos (Google or drone?).	
	Questions raised over the allotment area. Several people suggested it degrades the park and park entrance, especially to those who don't realise it's an allotment and not part of the park. – Trustees not able to give any update as in the hands of City Council and current tenant. Was suggested park creates a plan showing proposal if allotments are incorporated at some stage.	Trustees
9	Meeting Closed approx. 8:30 PM	
10	List of Public Attendees.	
	Mike Pearson Linda Louis Paul Griffiths Frances Carson Stephen Carson Corina O'Rielly Alex Beedle Robert Parker John Walsh	

RB 6/4/022

Chairman's report AGM 2022

This is my fourth AGM as Chairman and the AGM an opportunity for us all to reflect on what a lovely resource Liquorice Park is to our community . Whether we enjoy a stroll through it or prefer to sit and ponder, it fulfils an important role in the wellbeing of all of us ,young and old .

The past year

2021was again a very challenging year . Covid up skittled many of the plans that we wanted to fulfil but happily with our great band of volunteers we were able to maintain the park as an important resource for the community and wildlife . Once again, this year we have had so many compliments from residents and I want to pay particular tribute to all the volunteers who have ensured that the park is safe and welcoming to all local people.

The management plan 2022

At the outset of the year2021, we agreed our management plan . A new plan was agreed for 2022 and shared on our website . Although COVID has prevented us from doing some of our more ambitious plans (e.g., redeveloping the performance area) we have nevertheless been able to maintain the park in good condition for all to enjoy safely.

We continue to get more organised. our website is now well established with over 700 visits a month and our Facebook page continues to grow in popularity. We have developed an update service for the community through e mail which now has well over 100 subscribers . Our website is now an excellent source of information for the community on our plans and what is going on in the park .

Thankyou's

It is with sadness that we have said goodbye to Dudley Thomson and Nicola Watson from the Board of Trustees of the Park.

Dudley has been and remains a good friend of Liquorice Park. He was one of the original trustees who over 23 years ago put their signature on the original Deed Trust for Liquorice Park in July 1998. His commitment and love of our park and nature is much appreciated and his knowledge respected. We sincerely thank him for his long service.

Nicky has been a stalwart for the Trust for over 21 years. Among other duties she has kept our archives, taken our minutes, done faultless media interviews and until last year was Treasurer. We appreciate all that she has contributed to and done for the park.

We thank you both for your service to our local community.

We are also sad that one of our other loyal volunteers, Isla Davies has decided that she will not be continuing as a trustee. As a trustee she has done, amongst many tasks, a lot of work to ensure that we have improved governance , for which we are extremely thankful . She

will continue to volunteer at the park where her knowledge of plants and habitats is so helpful to us all.

Treasurer

I want pay tribute to my fellow trustees and give particularly thanks to our treasurer Richard Bayles. Richard has provided accurate and prompt information for all our meetings and managed the difficult role of treasurer extremely well .

Thank you

I also want to thank the many volunteers who work tirelessly and enthusiastically for the benefit of the park. I am proud that we have volunteers from right across the community, young and not so young, working together and having fun. Long may it continue .

Phil Cragg Chair 4.4.22

Liquorice Park Millennium Green Trust

Annual Accounts - 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022



Brought forward

Co-operative account	£4,739.51
Petty cash	£74.00

Income

Personal donations	£972.00
Company Donation	£1,000.00
Co-op Community Champions	£819.84
PayPal Giving Fund & Test	£8.29
Sale of Donated Bird Boxes	£35.00

Expenditure

		Bench Repair	£37.03
		Bench Delivery	£60.00
		Water Capture Improvements	£96.99
		Herb garden materials	£18.00
		Vermin Control	£16.71
		Public Liability & Indemnity Insurance	£235.33
		Surveyors Report	£306.00
		Jubilee Fruit Trees	£55.50
		Water Bill	£15.03
		Petty Cash Purchases	£159.74
Donated Item Contributions	£950.00	Donated Items Inventory	£950.00
Income via PayPal Account	£98.29	From PayPal to main Account	£98.29
To Petty Cash from Main Account	£189.38	From Main Account to Petty Cash	£189.38
		<u>Carry Forward</u>	
		Co-operative Account	£6,544.67
		Petty cash	£103.64
		PayPal Account	£0.00
Total	£8,886.31		£8,886.31

Notes:

- Overall Income for year = £2835.13
- Overall outgoings for year = £1000.33
- Surplus / Deficit for year = +£1834.8

Ring Fenced Monies

- £1000 for Viewing Platform Materials.
- £2000 for Performance Area.
- £500 for Scented Butterfly Garden.
- £750 for New Signage.



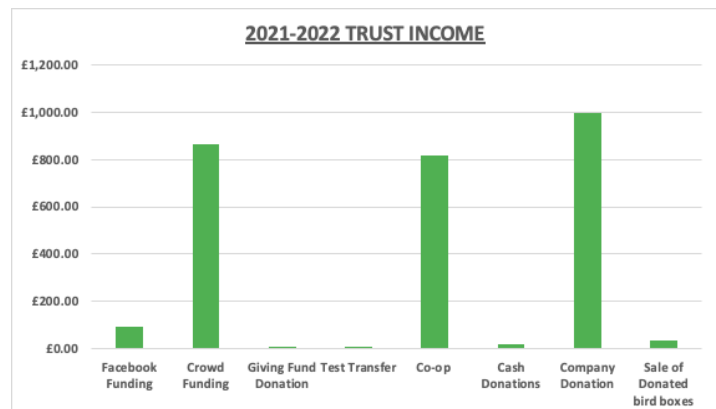
2021 - 2022 End of Year Financial Accounts Report

Accounts/Cash – Over the last financial year the accounts show an overall increase in funds of £1835, with the final figures being:

- Co-op account £6535, an increase of £1805
- Petty Cash fund £103 an increase of £30.
- PayPal Account £0

This shows a very healthy balance. However, it should be noted that whilst this includes two years of healthy income we've had relatively little expenditure, especially on the bigger planned projects, mainly due to Covid. Consequently we have ring fenced £4250 for various delayed projects (see later).

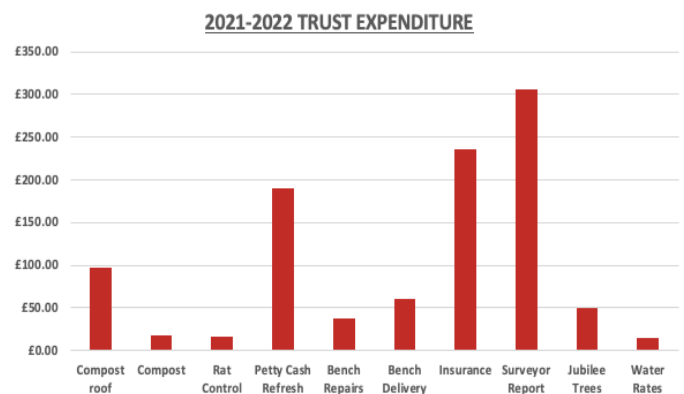
Incomes (£2835) - Main income continues to be via grants and donations with £820 from the Co-op and £1000 from a local company. We also received over £950 via crowd funding / facebook donations organised by two of our volunteers. We also received approx. £50 from sale of donated bird boxes and cash donations.



Donations in Kind (£935) - 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 being a memorial bench for a local resident.

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

Expenses (£1000) – Mainly due to coronavirus the bigger planned projects were either not started or were delayed. The main expenses were £306 for Southern boundary surveyors report. £235 for public liability and indemnity Insurance. £190 for refreshment of Petty Cash (for volunteer equipment, plants and refreshments) £100 for improved rainwater catchment in Herb Garden and £55 for Jubilee Fruit Trees.





Liquorice Park Millennium Green Trust

Ring Fenced Monies (£4250) – Comprising:

- **£2000** Ring fenced for improvements to the performance area provided by the Dawber Grant (FY 2020/2021).
- £1000 ring fenced for Viewing Platform repair / replacement. This is made up from £500 donation in FY 19/20, and £500 allocated from this year's Co-op donation.
- £500 ring fenced for Scented Butterfly Garden, provided from personal donation (FY20/21).
- £750 ring fenced for new signs, including panoramic sign. From general funds.

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 2021-2022 year this has been achieved.

Equipment – Cost of equipment owned by the Trust is estimated to be approximately £590.

Future, Year 2022-2023, as of 1/4/2021

Income

Grants / funding will be applied for as opportunities arise.

Potential income sources:

- Plan a 2022 calendar, profit assumed in the order of £200

Major Expenditure - A number of projects have been agreed and are either on-going or yet to start:

- Performance Area re-vamp. £2000 ringfenced for this.
- Replace Park Signage (Entrance and viewing platform). Further £750 ringfenced, although refund (£190) of previous monies paid is possible.
- Replacement / Repair of Viewing Platform. Currently £1000 allocated for materials
- Creation of Scented / butterfly garden area (Rose's Garden).
- Replacement / Repair of stone wall / seating. Funds not currently allocated.
- Re-building of old Compost cover / rain catchment. Currently leaning a lot! Funds not allocated (if we need them).

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 Walls; Concerns over the integrity of two sections of the Yarborough Rd boundary walls are high financial risk. Following surveyor report, quotes are being obtained to establish the cost of remedial work. Long term future expenditure is therefore currently unknown and highly likely to be outside our current financial capabilities.
- 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

AGM – 4th April 2022

VOLUTEERS REPORT – Alison Griffiths

Even with the gradual easing of Covid restrictions over the past year, it has still been a challenging time for all. In spite of this, the stalwart volunteers have worked hard maintaining the park to ensure it is a pleasant and safe place to enjoy for local residents and visitors, as well as providing much needed habitats for wildlife.

The enthusiastic band of volunteers has formed a strong sense of friendship and mutual support with the generous sharing of knowledge and skills. With ages ranging from 19 to retirement age (and over!) socialising at the much-loved coffee break is always energising and enjoyable with a deep feeling of community. In these difficult times, this friendship is so important and very precious. It is generally accepted that being in a green space enhances general mental well being.

Much has been done over the year – new paths for which Trustee David has a special talent, helped by his Payback volunteers – repairs of donated seating, construction of habitat friendly dead hedges and general weeding, grass cutting, tree maintenance, composting and planting are just some of the regular activities.

Volunteering sessions are held twice a week and are always well attended with the employed adults mostly making up the Sunday numbers. Some volunteers have been coming for many years and others have a brief stay, especially students and young adults who move out of the area due to graduating or changes in working circumstances. This is the nature of the beast with volunteering. However, it is always heart warming when ex-volunteers make the effort to come back and see us – rather like visiting the family. Such was the case last week when Nathan – now a third year student at Cambridge – joined us. Nathan was 16 when he first joined the team. It is gratifying that the park has a constant supply of new volunteers so there are usually at least 6 volunteers present per session. There are several projects planned for the coming year ensuring there is plenty of worthwhile work to do.

I would like to thank all the volunteers for supporting the park, giving so generously of their time – particularly those who bake the cakes for a treat at coffee break. More especially, my personal thanks go to fellow Trustee Penny, who not only helps me co-ordinating the volunteers (which can be a bit like keeping frogs in a bucket) but also supplying the hot drinks for which we are so grateful. I would also like to mention the members of the public who continually show their verbal appreciation to the volunteers and I'm always touched when an unexpected cash donation for the funds is handed to me as an act of spontaneous thanks. Maybe I should carry a card machine!!

More seriously, let's all hope that the coming year sees the continued waning of the pandemic and that the park continues to go from strength to strength in providing not only an energising and uplifting green space for the local people but also a much needed habitat for wildlife in an urban setting.

Report on January 2022 Survey by Isla Davies

In January we conducted a survey of our community's views on Liquorice Park. This was done via our online mailing list and our Facebook page. For those not online we delivered 220 forms directly to roads bordering the park.

83 completed submissions were returned capturing a good spectrum of views. The purpose of the survey was to gain feedback on issues that were front of mind for those who care and visit the park. It was pleasing to see that most survey respondents were highly positive about the park and were broadly happy with the current management.

The 3 questions were

Question 1: What do you like most about the park?

There was no shortage of positives.

You said:

You like the green space, the views and a place to wander

You like the quiet contrast with the City

You like the variety of areas within the park.

You like the support for wildlife.

Finally, you love the volunteers and were highly appreciative of their efforts.

Question 2: What do you least like?

You said:

You don't like the anti social behaviour, the groups drinking and smoking cannabis at night

You don't like feeling unsafe when walking through the park at night

You don't like the over maintenance of areas within the park

You don't like the under maintenance of areas within the park

Finally you don't like the rubbish and dog fouling

Question 3: What changes would like to see over the next 5 years?

You said:

More community involvement

More events

Access for the disabled

More information and communication

More benches

More rubbish bins

One question came up about the park's future. Could it get sold? The answer is no. The park is held on a 999 year lease signed in April 1999 between the Trust and the City of Lincoln Council.

Some of the themes emerging from the survey are already being implemented. You will be seeing more seats, more litter bins and more information. Some of your suggestions are harder to achieve within our limits of volunteer numbers and time. A challenge but not impossible. We are listening and you can tell us what you think of our progress when we ask you in another survey next year. You can mark our efforts and we'll report the outcome at our next AGM.