

MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S CHURCHYARD
Tuesday 12th October 2010

MINUTES

Thirteen members attended the meeting, with ten apologies.

Minutes of the meeting held 27th April 2010 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were accepted as a true record, proposed by Marie Fare and seconded by Jean Ingham.

Matters arising

A possible health and safety issue may result from a tree growing very near to one of the walls and could be pushing it over. The offending tree may be under a preservation order.

Action: David Chadwick to contact Chris Binney.

Possibility of lights on the Old Lane for security/safety.

Action: Sheila Wicks mentioned the Community Safety Partnership and will ask at the November meeting.

Treasurer's report

Current Account

Receipts		Payments	
Fundraising	£ 780.70	A Bailey (grass cutting & walls)	£670.00
Membership subs	£ 11.00	S Witt (ground preparation etc.)	£290.00
Donations	£ 672.00	King Bros	£162.74*
Donations	£ 162.74	*payment made by Diocese	
(Blackburn Diocese)		Chadwicks (rotovation & seeding)	£560.00
	<u>£ 1626.44</u>	E Lancaster (wall building)	£882.00
		Chadwick & Leaver (seeds)	<u>£514.50</u>
			£3079.24

Bank Balance (Yorkshire Current)

Opening balance (06/04/2010)	£6006.54
Less payments	£3079.24
Plus income	<u>£1626.44</u>
	£4553.74

Marsden Building Society Account

Opening balance (06/04/2010)	£150.65
Closing balance (12/10/2010)	£150.65

Churchyard update

It was decided not to request an extension of the current faculty as the work regarding the removal of the kerbstones has been completed.

A new faculty will be required for the provision of benches (6), panoramic map and a Remembrance Wall.

Action: Elaine Butterworth is to contact the Vicar regarding the request for a faculty.

An email has been received from Alison Scott-Miller and the other church wardens on behalf of the PCC, thanking The Friends for the continued work done in the churchyard.

David Chadwick reported that the rotavating of the churchyard has been completed and approximately 2/3 of the site reseeded with low maintenance grass seed.

The boundary walls on the Rowland Avenue and Old Lane sides of the churchyard have been rebuilt. We are grateful to the Environmental Action Group for the work they carried out on the Old Lane walls.

PCSO Mark Thornton provided signs to advise the public that the walls have been painted with anti-vandal paint.

Action: Elaine Butterworth is to contact PCSO Mark Thornton about purchasing the anti-vandal paint.

It was decided that the Institute wall in the churchyard was beyond repair and would be too expensive to replace using new materials. Environmentally friendly suggestions were considered and it was agreed that thorn bushes would be used to create a hedge.

Action: David Chadwick to buy and plant thorn bushes to create a hedge between the Institute area and the churchyard.

Students on the GAP programme from Nelson and Colne College (N&CC) continue to work tirelessly in the churchyard including picking up litter.

Brian Oliver has kindly donated 15 bags of bulbs for planting either side of the main path.

Action: Elaine Butterworth to contact the leader of the GAP programme at N&CC about students planting the bulbs a.s.a.p.

Access to the churchyard was discussed and the members agreed that the ground should dry out and the grass seed be allowed to settle and grow before the churchyard was opened to the public.

Jean Ingham reported that work continues with Bob Ellis recording the names on the inscribed stones which remain by the car park. Jean will then find the relevant records so the stones can be replaced as near as possible to their original positions.

Sub-groups

Grant applications

Funding applications to Nelson Town Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund are ongoing.

Website/Information leaflet

Elaine Butterworth reported that new photos have been added to our website (www.friendsofstjohns.co.uk). The members were updated about the importance of the website, how it helps to attract new members for The Friends and promotes interest in the churchyard and the progress being made. Emails have been received from local people, others from throughout the country and some with an international interest.

Jean Ingham reported that the CD recording those buried in the churchyard was at the read-only stage and currently being checked.

Fundraising

Thanks to Marie Fare and John Pilsworth who raised £242 (amended amount) on their sponsored walk across Morecambe Bay on 23rd May 2010.

A magnificent £500 was raised at our very busy Coffee Morning on 4th September 2010. Thank you to everyone who supported us or volunteered their help in any way, making the morning a great success.

Any other business

It was suggested that minutes of The Friends' meeting should be sent to the editor of St John's church newsletter to publicise the work being done by The Friends to improve the churchyard.

Action: The Secretary will provide the minutes for Ann Smith to take to the editor.

There was discussion from the floor regarding a "Plant a Tree" scheme, in remembrance.

Elaine Butterworth suggested that a new subgroup should be considered to develop the next stage of involvement in the community. This element was originally stated in our Vision, and includes promoting a local heritage site, nature trail and sensory garden. The membership agreed and volunteers were requested to form the subgroup.

Action: A meeting is be set up by Elaine Butterworth for interested members.

Information was circulated about locally made benches made from recycled plastic wood lumber.

Action: This information will be included in grant applications.

A copy of the churchyard regulations has been forwarded from Archdeacon Hawley for our reference.

It was decided to contact the War Graves Commission in the Spring about the maintenance of the 30+ war graves in the churchyard now that the groundwork has been completed.

Action: The Secretary will contact the War Graves Commission.

Date of the next Open meeting:

Tuesday 15th March 2011 at St John's Church Barkerhouse Road Nelson at 7.30pm.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.