

MILTON CREEK COUNTRY PARK TRUST

Minutes of AGM on 27th January 2025

At Kemsley Community Centre, The Square, Ridham Avenue, Kemsley, ME10 2SL

Present:

Trustee; Lynda Marshall (Fundraiser/Treasurer), Steve Davey, Chris Andrews, Sue Gent, Nick Vickers, Janet Williams (Minutes Secretary)

Swale Borough Council; Kris Staples (Park Ranger),

Volunteers; Graham Kirk, Audrey Carey, John Carey

Others; Councillor Kieron Mishchuk, Leslie Conroy

1. Welcome & Introductions:

The meeting opened at 18:28hrs and Nick Vickers welcomed everyone to the AGM.

Everyone introduced themselves to Kieron.

Nick Vickers decided that the 1st part would be the AGM and the 2nd part the committee meeting, so wouldn't follow the agenda.

2. Apologies:

Councillor Tony Winckless, Councillor Mike Dendor, Jay Jenkins, Fay Wilson, Councillor Derek Carnell, Councillor Ashley Wise.

3. Approve minutes of AGM 20 February 2024:

AGM Minutes agreed.

4. AGM Matters Arising:

The trench for the extra CCTV camera is being dug today, funded by Swale Borough Council with pan and tilt. It will be able to see the back of Space and Kris Staples will ask once the gates are closed to be focussed on Space.

Eurovia is no longer helping out as they have moved on.

5. Minutes of last Committee meeting:

It should be Graeme Tuff not Tuft.

Minutes agreed with amendment.

6. Committee matters arising:

No matters arising.

7. Election of Officers:

- a. **Chairman;** Unanimously voted as Mike Dendor
- b. **Vice Chairman;** Unanimously voted as Tony Winckless
- c. **Treasurer/Fundraiser;** Unanimously voted as Lynda Marshall
- d. **Minutes Secretary;** Unanimously voted as Janet Williams

8. Annual Trustees Report:

Amendments:-

Page 2, item d) should read Antony Winckless (*Vice Chairman*)

Page 4, item i), 1st paragraph should read 'contractors and users of the *park*' not hall

Page 4, item i), last paragraph should read 'website for *park users*' not hirers

Page 4, item j), last paragraph should read 'protect its *container units*' not buildings

Page 5, item k) remove:

- Firefighting appliances inspected annually
- Legionella Control Checks done annually (for any water supplies)
- Asbestos Survey and Register
- Food Hygiene Certificate in place and checked annually

Fire safety risk assessment will be done when Space is complete.

Agreed with the above amendments.

9. Fundraising/Finance Report:

The Financial Statement was agreed for submission to the Charity Commission

Steve Davey thanked Lynda Marshall for the hard work.

The bid to B&Q has failed and Swale Borough Council's bid is oversubscribed

10. Park Rangers Report:

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The park maintained its Green Flag award and this year it will be a mystery shopper exercise rather than an inspection.

Volunteer hours are 4,200 without the work done by Graham Kirk for Space or Park Runs. There were 352 park runners on New Years Day.

We have £12,000 for the additional camera so that the entry way is covered, plus 2 by the toilet and play area, all powered by electric from Space.

The containers have all been moved to a 'compound' area, so they are together, and the next step is electric from Space to the compound.

Joe comes in on Wednesdays and is doing well. Kris Staples meets his tutor once a month. Tutor praises his attitude improvement in the 6 months with us rather than his previous 2 years at Sunken Gardens in Thanet.

There are lots of coppicing work going on.

National tree planting was in December.

There have been kite making, reindeer, bird boot boxes and Frisbee events held over the year, along with Great Crested Newt surveys. Bumble bee still does a nature walk every 3rd Sunday.

Kris Staples is meeting Tom from Southern Housing and DSS on using the park. Helen from Kent Youth Justice is coming in tomorrow. Meadowfields will be starting back on 5th February 2025 working with Kris for a week, then on their own for a week and so on.

Green Flag said we need to review the management plan as the current is for conservation and not the Green Flag plan.

Nick Vickers thanks Kris Staples for all his hard work.

11. Facilities/Development:

A good relationship has been built with the building inspector, and he has been out 3 times now. We are about 98% finished with internal lining and the drainage is part completed. The suspended ceiling contractor is ready and waiting but an electrician is needed in first and we're probably 2-3 weeks away from being ready for them. The internal walls have been prepared for decorating and cladding. Howdens will be supplying the kitchen. We need a quote for the hardstanding and disabled access areas as Eurovia have pulled out.

We need to think about maintaining and operating Space and it was suggested that the air conditioning maintenance would be annual and electrics every 5 years. Lynda Marshall said that fire extinguishers are needed, and these haven't been included in the quotes. Also need to look at emergency lighting.

Steve Davey thanked Graham Kirk for all his hard work and for handling building control/regulations.

Nick Vickers asked if there's an end date? Not yet as still need hardstanding and flooring.

Nick Vickers said we need to come back at another meeting to launch Space when finished.

Lynda Marshall asked if we needed a subcommittee to market Space?

12. Any Other Business:

Steve Davey told Kris Staples that the fencing is being moved and damaged at the pedestrian access on Swale Way.

It was noted that Councillor Ashley Wise has raised the fly tipping on Kent County Council land at the fishing lake parking area at the back of the lake. Kris Staples said that Suez are coming round to clear and then access will be blocked off.

Councillor Kieron Mishchuk said he would like to work closely with the park and donate £100 from his member's grant.

Kris Staples thanked the volunteers and said he wouldn't be able to maintain the parks standard without them.

13. Date of next AGM:

No future meetings have been scheduled as Mike Dendor will need to arrange them.

The meeting ended at 19:50hrs.