

REPORT FROM MERRICK LOGGIN ON BEHALF OF THE POCKET PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

I would just like to explain the relationship between the parish council (PC) and the pocket park management committee (PPMC). It is as it has been for years – the PC own the land and PPMC manage it in accordance with the seasons tasks, to maintain the park, as a place for wildlife and wild flowers (some rare species), for the benefit of the residents of Evenley.

There are four of us on the committee, myself as Chairman, Heward Simpson, Jackie Fox and Joyce Stevens. Up to his passing away in November last year, Keith Cousins was a member, having been actively involved in the park since its formation in 1989.

Our maintenance programme is fairly simple – we cut back all the trees, shrubs and brambles each spring (before nesting season starts). Once the weather permits, mowing the paths can then commence – a task I undertake. In the Autumn, the meadow is mowed and raked, with the rakings stacked to one side. This is the accepted principle to preserve a wild flower environment.

Throughout the season our committee members visit the park and do some tidying up (however little – it all helps).

For many years, Charles Reader has sponsored the cutting of the roadside hedge and for that we always thank him and his team.

As we had lost several good ‘friends’ during the last 18 months we agreed at our AGM to plant a tree on the park in their memory – however, we felt that it would be more appropriate to remember ALL those friends who are no longer with us.

As the park would be included in the PC public liability scheme, the input from the PC was to maintain (as owners of the land) its risk management programme which involved a visual inspection, weekly in the growing season, and remove and empty litter bins, weekly and check for broken glass. For this a liaison person was appointed from the councillors. In addition, the PC would advertise our spring and autumn clear ups by way of a flier and any other communication methods, circulated round the parish.

We have always been a small, active and friendly team, working for the benefit of the residents of Evenley and will continue to do so. Details of the park have been on the parish website for years for any interested party to read about.

Twenty-five years ago, we started fund raising for specific projects by asking residents to make donations to a fund called ‘Friends of Evenley Common’. This is still in existence and some years ago, it allowed us to have the hedge laid at a cost of £1000.00, again by Charles Reader.

If anybody would like to join as a ‘Friend’ please give our Treasurer, Heward Simpson your details and any donation you are able to give. We will add Heward’s details to our webpage.

Thank you.