

Minutes of Lee Manor Society meeting, 13th March 2025

PRESENT: Charles Batchelor (chair), Barbara Bird (notes), David Dannreuther, David Ford, Mike Haste, Frances Migniuolo, David Plumer, Karen Pratt, Diana Stevenson

APOLOGIES: Simon Bucks, Helen Carr, Mary Donovan

1. Minutes from meeting held on 13th February 2025 Approved.

Matters arising: Frances reported that the NCIL grant of £2,450 for the flower bed in Manor House Gardens is going ahead.

2. Financial Report In Simon's absence it was reported that our current balance is just over £8,500.

3. Plant Mart and Garden Party update Karen presented details of planning so far. Our MP Janet Daby will be coming and presenting the raffle prizes. Previous regular features will return, including plants, cakes, books and CDs, raffle, tombola, but not bric-a-brac. The Community Garden will be open, and a new feature will be instruction in card-making using watercolour. Safety is in hand, including insurance and a risk assessment. Local businesses have been approached for donation of raffle prizes, and further donation of prizes for the raffle and tombola are invited. Publicity arrangements are in planning, along with the need to recruit more volunteers to help on the day. Simon will get us a second card machine. Further details, including pricing, will be discussed at our meeting in May.

4. 'Future Lee Green and its surroundings' Charles showed us suggested hypothetical designs created by the university students for a possible future redevelopment of the Sainsbury site.

5. Trees: Spring tree walk, Southbrook Road tree planting, Ralph White tree update

The Spring Tree walk will take place on 31st May.

Plans for the tree planting in Southbrook Road are progressing. Charles is in consultation with the Street Trees for Living about sites and tree types.

Charles and David F are in contact with Glendale about the planting of a tree in Manor House Gardens in memory of Ralph. It will be a common alder.

6. Heritage Trail Simon has suggested the possibility of applying for lottery funds for developing a heritage trail, and a number of possible sites for plaques were mentioned. David Plumer reminded the meeting of what already existing in this connection, so we can avoid unnecessary repetition.

7. Planning update Mike provided full details of currently relevant planning applications and decisions – see separate document.

8. Ice House 2025 The list of volunteers for opening the Ice House for the first part of the season was presented, with only a couple of spaces still to be filled. We will also be opening on Saturday 21st June for the Manor House Gardens Festival, with an information table in addition.

9. Sustainable Streets After council Sustainable Streets representatives did not attend the recent Assembly meeting, the Society issued an invitation for them to come to a meeting held by us. Initially there was no reply but after an appeal to the councillor responsible for this area of council activity we were told the streets team were not prepared to meet us. We registered our displeasure in stories on our website. We were referred to a third consultation which is to follow though we have little hope of changing anything at that late stage..

10. Community response to the ending of funding for local assemblies Former councillor Jim Mallory has established a working group of local community organisations, including the Society, to consider how groups can work together and represent community interests in future..

11. AOB

Karen reported that a local hairdresser, Al at Hair Deco, has offered his outside space as a free venue if we can use. The social evening we are planning for August was mentioned.

David P suggested marking the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Ice House on June 10th. We will arrange to have a banner.

David F mentioned the planters in the Leegate Centre and how they might be used elsewhere.

David also raised the idea of the Society holding a conference on tree-related issues in the autumn.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 6th May at 7.30 at St Peter's Church Hall.