

FRIENDS OF BALL GROVE

**Meeting, Monday 19th January 2026
7.00pm Cotton Tree Pub**

Welcome and apologies;

Attended; Gillian Laycock, Ben Harrison, Martin Ackroyd, Ann Waddington, Les Cromey, Andy Froud J B Hodson PC, Ann Holmes PC, Eleanor Jolley PC, Mel Henley, Liz Buckley East Lancs Bat Group, Barbara Savage, Joanne Webber, Phil Riley PC, A Kibble East Lancs Bat Group.

Apologies; Sarah Cockburn Price

Les thanked everyone for attending

Minutes of last meeting September 2025

Approved; Ann Waddington

Seconded; Martin Ackroyd

Matters arising;

Signage concerns relating to cycling outstanding.

Martin to attend the next meeting of TPC.

The bench outside the playground requires a concrete standing by the side, for disabled and pram users. TPC. To take this to their next meeting.

Date of TPC next meeting the first Monday in February 2026.

Reports;

None

Progress from last meeting;

Other than the planned beds tidy up and bulb planting nothing has occurred during the winter months.

Financial;

Current balance £7,008.79

Future Volunteer Activities;

Wild flower beds to be replanted

Chris will set volunteer activities for Ball Grove and Reserve from January 2026 onwards.

The F of BG would like to send Chris their best wishes and hope to see him soon.

AOB;

Before any AOB concerns, the chairman informed the meeting that the F of BG, are there to protect the Park from any developments or change of use.

Email from MH 19/01/2026 re MH concerns.

The group held a discussion relating to the following concerns:

Item1, Bollard next to Riverside Cottage.

Item 2, Cycling.

Item 3, Parking near the playground.

Item4, Trip hazards

As MH has advised the HSE about the above items, it was agreed that the F of BG will wait and support any recommendation that the HSE make if any to TPC.

Item 5, Management Plan

The F of BG were advised at the meeting that the early plan written by MH has been completely rewritten. The F of BG will be sent a copy to comment on.

MH requested the minutes record his invitation to the next TPC meeting. Next meeting the 1st Monday in February 2026.

Phil Riley informed the group that he had a pot of monies for trees which was available to the friends.

East Lancs Bat Group; talked about their project to place bat boxes in local wooded areas to monitor and increase numbers. The group unanimously support this activity within the reserve.

To be put on the agenda for next meeting to discuss a donation to the East Lancs Bat Group.

Date of next meetings; Friends of Ball Grove;

General Meeting: Monday 9th March 2026 7.00pm Cotton Tree Pub.

AGM 18th May 2026 7.00 pm Cotton Tree Pub.