



**Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 2 December 2010, 7.30pm
The Ackroyd Community Centre, SE23**

Present:- Friends of Blythe Hill Fields members:

Marcel Jenkins (Dep Chair)	Kylie Barnes (Secretary)	Sydney Couldridge	Molly Bertrand
Gavin Bolam	Anne Scott	Chris Thompson (Glendale)	

Apologies:-

Alan Bailey (Chair)	Josh Smaller	Noelle O'Conner	Elizabeth Downie
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1. Welcome and Apologies

Marcel Jenkins (MJ) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and Chris Thompson from Glendale.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising

Skateboarding Damage to Decking - Chris Thompson said that he was in the process of getting a sign produced stating that the skating is causing damage to the playground. Chris will be e-mailing the design through to KB which can then be passed around for comments. It was thought that in addition to putting a notice in the notice board there could also be one attached to the gate of the playground to draw attention to it.

Coffee & Tea facilities - The discussions between Virginia and Glendale never got started. Unsurprisingly, the momentum on this one has been lost and she will not be pushing forward with the idea.

Panoramic View Descriptor – Molly says her friend (Dryden Goodwin) is keen to do a Panoramic view but that it would be of an artistic type design. He is a well known artist and therefore would be expensive. Molly to ask him costs and likely timescale and to report back at the next meeting. The expense on such an item was a concern and some discussion over where the funding might come from to deliver it.

Trees - Sydney and Alan met with Angus Frazer on November 22nd to review the position. On a previous inspection, Alan had estimated that 55 trees were alive, 18 were doubtful, 26 looked dead or dying and one had been severely vandalised. It is hard to tell, particularly at this time of year. Angus has ordered 26 new trees. They will be planted between now and Christmas. There were problems with the lack of depth of soil (before solid clay) in the centre of the quarter of the Fields behind Montacute Road. New planting will be further out towards the edges of the quarter. All the trees around the picnic benches, apart from the Mulberry, are dead (5) and will be replaced. Angus feels the 5 in the playground are still OK. During Angus's inspection some of the existing oaks were found to be diseased and they will have to be felled and burned. Oaks also seem to have been poor survivors of the new 100.

Wildflower Meadow Strips & Grass Cutting Plan – Still no progress on this. Chris agreed that the grass cutters would be having plans of where the bulbs and meadow strips are placed to avoid mowing them down next year.

Benches - Chris Thompson reported back with costings for a wooden Meridian Style park bench at Blythe Hill. It was felt that as the Friends have some money in the bank that we could perhaps invest in 2 benches in the park. Chris also mentioned that he could supply us with 2 used bins from other parks and install them in Blythe Hill. He will see if he can get a good deal on buying two benches and will send an update to KB. Gavin was keen to explore the idea of sponsorship from local companies like Phoebe's where we could offer them a brass plaque to acknowledge their donation to the Friends.

Cradle swing damage - Chris Thompson reported that the swing and the floor were melted by fire damage. Although he has a replacement swing, a section of the floor needs to be replaced. The suppliers have not yet been able to come in and do the repair as they have to come from Somerset. Under the current weather conditions, it is not possible to gauge when the repair will take place.

Planting Sessions - We were not able to find someone to lead our bulb planting session pencilled in for the 4th of December and in any event with the current weather conditions it would probably have been cancelled anyway . Chris Roberts was asked to use as many of the bulbs that have been ordered in the plantings that Glendale's they will be doing in the Fields. Lara has pencilled in Saturday the 26th of February as a Nature's Gym session in Blythe Hill Fields. The idea was that she would order up some whips and Nature's Gym would work with FBHF on filling in gaps and general maintenance of the Hedges. Chris Thompson was to liaise with Lara and contact Kylie to confirm whether 26 Feb could be confirmed and published.

BTCV have not come back to us about a further clearing/planting session. – MJ to chase this.

3 **Festival – Saturday 2nd July 2011**

Festival 2nd July 2011 – AB has applied to the Localities Fund of Crofton Park Ward for £1000 towards the costs. A decision is due in early December.

It was agreed that the stall booking form and the date of the event should go onto the web site. We discussed the possibility of setting a standard percentage of 25% for the takings of food suppliers such as the Babur and other vendors.

Toilets – Chris Thompson to return with a quotation.

Recycling – Chris Thompson advised he'd be happy to supply us with black bin liners and the free disposal of the general waste from the event. The remainder of the green bins and envirobins will still need to be finalised.

Acts – Molly to liaise and organise the acts again. KB gave details of a Scottish bag-pipe player.

Lewisham Community Sports – KB to liaise and establish if they are happy to come next year.

Donkeys – KB to find better donkeys.

Staging – MJ to establish and organise.

Generator – MJ to establish and organise.

Leaflet production – MJ to establish where to get them from.

Flyer design – SC to come up with a design.

8. **Any Other Business**

Merchandising - Marcel Jenkins has not been able to finalise merchandising items but will deal with this.

Web Site - Marcel Jenkins is in the process of moving the web site to a different hosting package. It was suggested to use the leaf design as a moving image.

9. **Next Meetings**

It was suggested that we may be able to meet at the Honor Oak Tavern for some of these meetings. KB to confirm if the room at the Ackroyd has been booked first. KB has booked the Ackroyd for these meetings, however we could cancel and re-arrange the venue nearer the time.

Thursday 3rd February 2011

Thursday 7th April 2011

Thursday 9th June 2011

Thursday 13th October 2011

MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of Blythe Hill Fields (FBHF) exists to represent everyone living around or using Blythe Hill Fields. Our purpose is to achieve sustainable improvements and facilities in this vital resource for the benefit of the whole community. We aim to promote the increased use and enjoyment of this essential open space.