



Minutes of Meeting
held on 6 December 2011, 7.30pm
at The Honor Oak, SE23

Present:- Friends of Blythe Hill Fields members:

Nicholas Taylor (Chair), Marcel Jenkins , Chris Thompson (Glendale), Gavin Bolam, Leo Stevens, Lynne Owen, Jo Knorpel, Anne Scott, Kylie Barnes, Jo Ireland, John Tookey, Alan Bailey, Liz Downie

1. Welcome

Marcel Jenkins (MJ) welcomed everyone to the meeting

Action Points

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

MJ went through the minutes of the last meeting and moved the appointment of Nicholas Taylor (NT) as the new Chair. This was agreed

3. Introduction of new chair and secretary

MJ handed over to NT who introduced himself and Leo Stevens (LS) as the new secretary. NT thanked the outgoing committee members Alan Bailey, Kylie Barnes, Molly Bertrand for their efforts and confirmed that the remainder of the committee consisted of Noelle O'Connor, Gavin Bolam, Sydney Couldridge, Lynne Owen and MJ (who continues as treasurer; he was also thanked for his work as acting chair).

4. Festival

The proposed date for the festival is 7 July 2012. MJ confirmed that the only event this clashed with would be Forest Fest (held at Forest Hill Boys School).

The Crofton Park Carnival is being held the day before and, whilst Stillness School have not yet set a date for their summer fair, provided that the date for the festival is confirmed as 7 July, they will choose a different date for theirs.

NT confirmed that Lewisham Peoples Day has been cancelled for 2012 (ostensibly due to the Olympics).

It was agreed that the date of the festival should be published as early as possible and an email sent to all past and present stallholders to ensure that they had the date in their diaries.

NT would write a press release which would be circulated to local newspapers NT (News Shopper, Mercury), SE23 magazine, St Saviours and St Hilda's parish newsletters and local websites and blogs.

NT confirmed that finances were healthy (especially after obtaining a £1,000 grant from the Crofton Park Assembly) and the accumulated surplus (before receiving the grant) was £3,939 of which £1,210 was the surplus for 2011. We were hoping for a 6th successive year of good weather for the festival; it must be recognised that the one major financial risk is rain.

There was a discussion about increasing the price for stallholders – currently held at £20 per stall except for Babur, whose £200 payment was increased to £300 in 2011. GB and MJ were in agreement that prices for the food stallholders (especially Babur) should be increased but Liz Downie argued that this was against the ethos of the fair given the current economic climate.

It was agreed that we would find out what other local festivals (such as Hilly NT Fields) charge and make a decision at the next meeting.

MJ said that organising the festival would be made easier if there were several defined roles that could be allocated to people. Members volunteered as follows:

Entertainment and Infrastructure (GB)
Stallholders (TBC at next meeting)
Friends' own stall (TBC at next meeting)
Health & Safety and Signage (MJ)
Even Manager and general co-ordinator (MJ)
Volunteer co-ordinator (LS)
PR/Communications/Publicity (NT)
Delivery Co-ordinator for leaflets (TBC at next meeting)
Leaflet and poster design (Sidney Couldridge)
Donkeys (Jo Ireland)

GB asked for a budget of £300 to book professional acts, which was approved.

MJ wanted to look into the cost of professional flyers.

MJ

A festival working party would be set up separately to deal with the organisation of the festival and a request for volunteers to both fill the remaining roles and for general help on the day would be circulated along with the minutes.

5. Tree Planting and Trim Trail

No date has been given by Awards for All in respect of the trim trail yet.

In respect of the trees to be donated by the girl guides, these will be delivered in late January and a date of 4 February was provisionally set to plant the trees. The guides would help plant them and Glendale would be donating compost.

Lynne Owen (LO) and NT would liaise with Glendale and the Woodland Trust LO and NT (who were donating the trees) to ensure that the trees were of sufficient quality and the right type for the soil in the park so that they had the best chance of surviving.

Christopher Thompson (CT) of Glendale said that the budget for parks in Lewisham had not yet been set but that Glendale were committed to efficiency savings of at least 3%. He did not know how these would affect Blythe Hill Fields in particular.

Glendale would fix the noticeboard shortly and saw the hole in the ship as promised at the last meeting. CT

One of the chains from the swings had been stolen and a new one was on order. CT

6. Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was to be 17 January 2012 at St Hilda's Crypt .

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.
