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**Minutes of Meeting**  
**held on 12 September 2012**  
**at Ackroyd Centre**

**Present:- Friends of Blythe Hill Fields** members:

Nicholas Taylor (Chair), Marcel Jenkins, Leo Stevens, Lynne Owen, Jo Ireland, John Tookey, Liz Downie, Jane Tillin

**Apologies:-** Gavin Bolam, David Byrne, Chris Thompson (Glendale), Sydney Couldridge, Josh Smaller

### **1. Welcome**

Nicholas Taylor (NT) welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

Unfortunately NT had been unable to type up minutes of the meeting in June 2012 due to ill health but said that he would pass them to LS to type up in due course. In any case, most issues arising from the meeting related to the festival.

### **3. Festival**

It was all agreed that the festival went well and NT led the thanks to MJ, whose hard work and dedication had led to such a good event.

MJ made it clear that he would not be taking such an active role next year and that it would be for others to help out.

He also circulated draft accounts and feedback from traders. The accounts showed a surplus of £903.74, which was slightly down on last year's figure. However, without the purchase of additional marquees and other equipment, the figure would have been about the same.

He also noted that the expenditure on bands was significantly higher than previous years and that perhaps next year, only one professional band should be booked.

MJ informed the group that the Crofton Park Assembly would only consider a MJ maximum award of £500 this year and that the deadline for applying was 15 October so he would do this.

LD suggested that we also apply to the Rushey Green Assembly for funding LS too and LS said he would look into this.

**4. Tree  
Planting and**

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## **other Green Matters**

LO announced that the Friends had won 105 hedge saplings from the Woodland Trust. They would be delivered in the w/c 5 November and would need to be planted as soon as possible.

It was agreed to arrange a planting day on 10 November and LS would speak LS to Glendale to see if they could assist.

LS reminded the group that a hedge tidying day had been organised with Glendale for 22 September and again he would send out a reminder shortly. LS

LS had received a complaint from a local resident about dog mess and dogs off leads and there was a discussion about what could be done. LD suggested that the Friends purchase additional notice boards from its reserves to put at the entrances which could remind people about responsible dog behaviour and it was agreed to put this to a vote at the AGM.

There were also complaints about the lack of bins and the fact that they were too easy for foxes to get at them. LS would feed this back to Glendale and ask LS for additional bins and it was also agreed to consider putting some funding towards bins from reserves if Glendale were prepared to do the same and that this would also be put to a vote at the AGM.

NT had a meeting with Glendale in June about the dead trees and it was agreed that they would be replaced but no action had been taken. NT would NT chase this.

MJ suggested buying a mature tree for the park from reserves. A discussion took place about the best type of tree to plant and, should this be taken further, suitable advice would be sought from an arboreal expert.

## **5. AOB**

MJ had an idea to create a book about the history of the fields based on one that had been made at Southwark Park. This was made thanks to lottery funding.

JT asked about potentially opening up a cafe in the fields. The history of this idea was discussed and the potential issues around planning and potential local opposition but clearly there would also be a lot of support from locals should this ever come to fruition.

## **6. Date of next meeting**

Next meeting would be the AGM and would be held on 24 October at a venue TBC.

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## **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.