
Minutes of Meeting held on 17 April 2012 at Ackroyd Centre

Present:- Friends of Blythe Hill Fields members:

Nicholas Taylor (Chair), Marcel Jenkins, Leo Stevens, Lynne Owen, Jo Ireland, Sydney Couldridge, John Tookey, Andrew Orford, Alice Casey, Jonathan Bain, Hugh Brown, Mark Wellband, Chris Thompson (Glendale)

Apologies:- Gavin Bolam

1. Welcome

Nicholas Taylor (NT) welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

3. Festival

NT confirmed that the poster had been approved and would be printed shortly so that it could be put up as soon as possible.

Anybody who knew of any bands interested in playing should talk to Gavin Bolam as soon as possible. LS had received one email and Mark Wellband knew of a couple of bands who would also be interested in playing.

MJ confirmed that the previous Punch and Judy man could not make it this year but that he had recommended somebody else for £100 extra.

He also confirmed that we would have a separate hot food area this year. JI mentioned that there may be a mobile coffee stall and mobile pizza stall interested in booking and would follow this up.

There was some discussion about the location of the hot food area, given the need also to accommodate bins, loos and parking space at the top of Blythe Hill Lane

Mark Wellband requested that there needs to be some creative thinking about how vehicles are managed on the fields this year as the parking of them last year detracted from the atmosphere and view. MJ said he would bring up to date plans of layout options to the forthcoming committee meeting so that details could be resolved.

Nancy Yuill has offered to run the cake stall again this year but needs donations of cakes. JI confirmed that Nandi Nandi would be interested in providing cakes in return for placing their logo on publicity and on the stall and it was agreed that this should be accepted.

NT said that we may need to consider buying another marquee but the issue was where to store it. JI suggested that we contact the local scout group to see if they had one that we could borrow on the day.

MJ said that we would need volunteers to run the tea and coffee stall as his brother and sister-in-law were no longer able to do this.

MJ stated that he had received an email from Peter George asking for a double stall to sell fair trade goods but also to promote a group raising awareness against people trafficking.

MJ said that it was always the case that the festival tried to be non political and to avoid any campaigning so it was put to the vote as to whether or not the anti-trafficking stal should be accepted.

It was unanimously agreed that Peter could have a fair trade stall which contained some materials about this group but that he could not have a whole stall devoted to it. MJ said that he would pass this on to Peter.

Alice Casey said that she knew of somebody who may be able to do the face painting and would report back once she had spoken to them.

Sponsorship with estate agents was discussed as JI had spoken to a few. They would require a minimum of 20 boards erected in return.

4.Tree Planting and trim trail

LS passed on a request from Josh Smaller about levelling off part of the fields so that children could play sport there.

CT said that he would raise this with Glendale but was not confident of success due to budget cuts.

MJ asked whether the banking on the playground would be returned and CT said that he would check. It was suggested that perhaps the Friends could use some of their reserves to do so or to specifically fundraise at the Festival if Lewisham Council/Glendale did not have enough budget to consider it.

Hugh Brown asked whether the signage would be replaced given the poor state of repair. CT said he would check. There was a consensus that the current signage in the park, part of an experiment by Lewisham council to brand all its parks, had never been very attractive and the fact that it was poorly made might be a good way of getting new, more appropriate signage.

NT discussed the state of the trees and it was agreed that he would undertake a walkabout with other members and Glendale at an agreed time to see which ones were still alive and which had died.

LO has applied to the Woodland Trust for another 105 hedge whips.

NT suggested a maintenance day for the hedges of 26 May at 10am. LS would contact Judith Simmons at Glendale to confirm that they would be available and also discuss another Nature's Gym day later in the year.

MJ explained there was no update on the Trim Trail application.

5. AOB

MJ had been contacted by somebody to rent the marquees. It was agreed to do so at a rate of £50 plus insurance for each marquee.

There was some discussion of the nuisance some dogs were causing in the park. There was much damage caused across the park from playground equipment (swing seats particularly) to trees which were being very badly treated (bark being chewed off and branches either being ripped down or used as anchors for dogs to be suspended). As well as being costly it is a very unpleasant and disturbing activity. Members seeing any concerning behaviour were encouraged to contact the Safer Neighbourhood Police but also Glendale who are trying to detect trends and devise ways to discourage bad behaviour. One plan was to introduce plastics impregnated with Citronella which dogs find repellent.

6. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 12 June at venue to be decided.

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.