



**Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**held on Wednesday 24 October 2012 7.30pm**  
**at Ackroyd Community Centre, SE23**

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

Nicholas Taylor (chair), Marcel Jenkins (treasurer), Leo Stevens (secretary), Hugh Brown, Cathy Ashley, Chris Thompson (Glendale), M Trott, Sydney Couldridge, Jo Ireland, Liz Downie, Gavin Bolam, John Tookey

**Apologies:**

Lynne Owen, David Byrne, Jo Knorpel

## **1. Welcome**

NT welcomed everybody to the AGM

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

There was a further discussion about the potential history book based on the Southwark Park book. MJ said he would post something on the facebook page to see if anyone was interested in this project and asking for volunteers to carry out research at local study centres, the British Library and the London Metropolitan Archive.

## **3. Resignations and Appointments**

NT, LS and MJ were all re-elected to their posts. LO was also re-elected as tree officer in her absence as she had indicated she was happy to do so.

Jo Ireland, Hugh Brown, Gavin Bolam and Sydney Couldridge volunteered to be committee members for the next year and were elected.

## **4. Financial Report**

MJ presented the 2011/2012 accounts and made the following comments:

- Donations were down from last year but this was due to Specsavers giving £200 last year for shooting an advert in the park;
- Income was increased due to renting out the marquees to Lewisham Toy Festival. Any renting would be considered on a case by case basis but it made sense to try and boost income by renting them out where possible;
- Festival income was excellent but grant income may be reduced next year due to a lower grant being made available from the Crofton Park Ward Assembly Fund (£500 maximum possible instead of £1,000);
- Our total accumulated surplus is approximately £5,000.

LS would apply again for funding from Crofton Park Assembly Fund and also look into funding from Rushey Green Assembly Fund. He would also apply to Co-operative Bank Community Fund for a maximum of £2,000.

## **5. Discussion on how to spend surplus on items for Blythe Hill Fields**

There was a general discussion about how to spend some of the surplus on items for the park as some people were concerned that the Friends was becoming too focused on the festival.

CT explained that Judith Simmons was a bid writer for Glendale and had helped other friends groups apply for grant funding in Manor Park and Mayow Park. LS said that he would invite her to the next meeting to discuss ways to raise funds.

A provisional list of items for the park was discussed and MJ said that he would look into costings for each one for the next meeting. As we could match fund the smaller items to some extent, these may be more realistic than some of the items requiring large expenditure or infrastructure:

- Semi-mature trees;
- Bins;
- Signs (perhaps in collaboration with a local school);
- Notice Boards;
- Benches;
- Panorama of view from the Fields;
- Trim Trail;
- Toilets;
- Cafe in temporary structure (potentially using a shipping container as in Mountsfield Park).

## **6. Trees**

The Woodland Trust would be delivering some more hedge whips on 5 November and a planting day would be held on 17 November to plant these along with an oak tree donated by the Girl Guides.

NT produced a paper to give to Glendale outlining our dissatisfaction with the current dead trees (57 out of the 100 planted in 2009-10) and putting forward proposals for replanting. This would be circulated, after being amended to include advice from the RHS provided by Cathy Astley, and the paper would be presented to Glendale as soon as possible.

## **7. Any other business**

None

## **8. Future meetings**

Next meeting to be held on 5 December at either the Blythe Hill Tavern or the Ackroyd Centre (Blythe Hill Tavern was the preference).

## **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.