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**Minutes of Meeting**  
**held on 6 February 2013**  
**at Blythe Hill Tavern**

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

Nicholas Taylor (Chair), Gavin Bolam, Sydney Couldridge, Jo Knorpel, Ann Scott, Roger Stocker

**Also present:** Chris Thompson (Glendale)

**Apologies:-** Marcel Jenkins, Leo Stevens

**1. Welcome**

Nicholas Taylor (NT) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Because of the absence of Marcel Jenkins and Leo Stevens, he suggested that most detailed matters relating to the Festival should be deferred to a Committee meeting on 20 or 21 Feb (subsequently re-arranged for 27 Feb) and then reported for ratification to the next Members' meeting on 6 March - for which we would need to encourage a larger attendance.

**2. Minutes and matters arising**

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held on 4 Dec 2012 were agreed.
- (ii) Bulb planting had been successfully carried out on Sat 15 Dec, with good attendance (a number of new faces and plenty of children). The area chosen was the verge, broad and sloping, at the far end of the Playground. The bulbs were of a variety of species (snowdrops, small daffodils etc). Planting was late in the season, so it remained to be seen how successful it was ; part of the problem might be that there was insufficient supervision (e.g. in removing roots and weeds).

**3. Festival**

- (i) Date of 6 July looked OK, as Hilly Fields Fayre confirmed for 22 June. (Subsequently, People's Day confirmed for 13 July.) No knowledge yet of Stillness Fair or of Forestfest.
- (ii) GB emphasized urgency of confirming bookings of musicians etc. (Siobhan Parr available). Need to clarify participation of Stillness ; GB said child performers would need a safer stage (barriers, steps, roof), and this would increase hire costs (he would investigate implications with the supplier of our existing stage).
- (iii) Daughter of sadly deceased donkey man is still in business and should be available.
- (iv) Stillness School could be used as a publicity channel.

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(v) Lewisham Cyclists could provide good attraction (bike doctor, etc), if our date was possible for them (Roger Stocker has contacts).

(vi) Blythe Hill Lane Allotments could be approached for involvement in a plant stall ; .

Everything else deferred to the Committee and the next Members' meeting.

#### **4. Green Issues**

**Bulb Planting** : see Minutes and Matters Arising, above.

**Hedge Planting** : GB renewed his offer of the mulch pile on the park side of his rear fence in Bankhurst Road ; it would then need to be transported over to the newly planted hedge at Brockley View. He can provide one wheelbarrow ; Chris Thompson (CT) said he could probably obtain three more from Glendale. There would be an appeal for 'pushers' at the next Members' meeting. CT said that Lara was not returning to Glendale after her maternity leave ; he would arrange for her successor to visit BHF with a view to further hedge work.

**Replacement of Dead Trees** : NT had distributed the revised version of his report to Glendale, and CT confirmed receipt of it. The main revision was the inclusion of Civic Trees at Aldenham (near Watford), the specialist tree nursery acquired by Glendale five years ago ; NT said their website showed it was a serious specialist firm and their silver birches at Ladywell Fields were doing well (CT said they were brought in there to replace failed trees). Its existence was not revealed to the Friends in 2010 because apparently it was assumed that we wanted quantity rather than quality : so we got 100 saplings from Glendale's plant nursery (Coblans), 57 of which have died, rather than a much smaller number of semi-mature trees from Civic Trees. CT agreed to find out, and to report to the 6 March Members' meeting, (a) how many semi-mature trees could be supplied and planted for the same cost as 57 replacement saplings, and (b) to clarify whether Glendale's management would agree this. A visit to Civic Trees could be arranged ; NT said their website included a list of species available and a price list.

**5. Amending FBHF Constitution** : Leo had sent a message indicating that, in order to qualify for registration for Landfill Tax Funding, it would be necessary to amend our constitution : (i) add disclaimers that we are not run for the benefit of any landfill operators and that we do not carry out statutory remediation works (!) ; (ii) set a quorum for meetings (in the range 6-12, the meeting thought) ; (iii) provision that, on our dissolution, any unspent Landfill grant money should be transferred to another Landfill-registered body. Agreed to refer this to the Committee, with a view to a decision at the next Members' meeting.

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**6. Dates of Future Meetings** : GB was thanked for booking the Tavern for the first Wed in each month (at no charge, so long as we drink the odd pint). This booking was agreed ; we would not need as many as twelve meetings a year, but we could simply cancel as necessary.

**7. Any Other Business :**

(i) Panorama (Viewing Table) : NT had spoken to John das Gupta (letter cutter / sculptor) and he was keen to visit. Preferred dates to be agreed by Committee, so as to give him a choice.

(ii) Bike Racks : CT said there were some available (funded by TfL). Agreed best location was the tarmac patch near the Blythe Hill Lane entrance (opposite the playground).

(iii) Flooding : noted that, as well as the usual flood across the pavement at Codrington Hill, there was now a new flood across the park pathway just inside the Brockley View entrance, flowing from a waterlogged area. Dangers of icing in the cold weather.

**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.