



Minutes of Meeting
held on 12 September 2013
at the Blythe Hill Tavern

Present:- Friends of Blythe Hill Fields members:

Nicholas Taylor (Chair), Gavin Bolam, Leo Stevens (Secretary), Jo Ireland, Hugh Brown, Jim Smith, Cathy Ashley, Jo Knorpel, Symon Knightswood, Zaria Greenhill, Marcel Jenkins (Secretary)

Apologies:- Lynne Owen

1. Welcome

Nicholas Taylor (NT) welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Unfortunately no minutes of the last meeting were taken.

3. Festival Debrief

MJ produced the final festival financial spreadsheet and a surplus of £1,500.30 was made (which was higher than anticipated).

Merchandise and farm sales were good and stall income from the Friends tent was up £500 from last year.

Hire fees income was also up due to more food stalls.

Prices for face painting were too low as a loss was made despite the tent being very busy for the whole festival.

Coconut shy was also successful and should hopefully return next year if we can loan it from the scouts again.

The volunteers were all extremely helpful and hopefully they will all return next year as the festival cannot be put on without them.

There was more rubbish at this year's festival due to the large number of people attending and the good weather so we would need to think about how better to deal with this next year.

Glendale charged a venue hire fee for the first time this year but apparently it should have been charged every year and it was overlooked so this will need to be budgeted for in future years.

It was thought that there was more room for stalls at the Brockley View end of the park if there was enough demand next year.

The total cash reserves of the Friends now stands at around £6,900.

Since MJ will not be organising the festival, the new organising committee needs to be put in place as soon as possible in order to ensure a smooth transition. MJ said he would put a manual together of all tasks that needed doing.

4. Festival Feedback Survey

The results of the survey were discussed.

Feedback was generally positive but there were a number of comments that people thought alcohol should be served. This was discussed amongst the committee and it was felt that this was not appropriate as it would both change the atmosphere of the festival and there would be a greater likelihood of trouble.

It was also felt that, as the festival was run entirely by volunteers and there were barely enough to cover the existing events, it would not be practical without a number of additional stewards.

However, given that the Friends is a democratic organisation, it was agreed that if other people wished to run the festival so that it was licenced and alcohol was served, they would be welcome to do so if they made themselves known.

There were also requests for more music and a better PA system. GB acknowledged the issues with the PA and said it had already been discussed with the hire company to be improved next year by having a separate generator for the stage.

In terms of music, we tried to encourage local acts but only a few bands had been in touch asking to play so we need to encourage more acts to put themselves forward. LS said he would try to use social media and local blogs closer to the time.

5. Green Matters

Lynne Owen said that she intended to resign as the tree and green officer of the committee so we would need to open this up to a vote at the AGM.

There was a Nature's Gym session to be held on 21 September at the park. Hopefully this would be well attended.

Josh Smaller offered to take up the role of completing the application for the trim trail as Liz Downie had moved away from the area.

NT said he would look at Glendale's contract to see if they could be forced to replace the dead trees.

6. Date of AGM

It was agreed that the AGM would be held on 6 November 2013.

MJ was stepping down as treasurer so his role needs to be replaced.

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.