



Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on 13 November 7.30pm
at the The Honor Oak

Present:- Friends of Blythe Hill Fields members:

Nicholas Taylor (chair), Marcel Jenkins , Leo Stevens (secretary), Hugh Brown (treasurer), Cathy Ashley, Sydney Couldridge, Zaria Greenhill, Gavin Bolam, Jim Smith, Karola Roxan-Schax

Apologies:

None

1. Welcome

NT welcomed everybody to the AGM

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

No matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

3. Resignations and Appointments

NT and HB were re-elected to their posts. LS stood down as secretary but nobody volunteered to be elected. It was agreed that the duties of the secretary would be shared around the committee until a permanent secretary was elected.

No festival committee was elected as there was some doubt as to whether there would be enough volunteers to be able to put the festival on in 2015.

Zaria Greenhill said that she would be standing down as the chair of the People and Wildlife group due to the fact that she would be giving birth in January and NT agreed to temporarily chair the group in her absence.

4. Financial Report

MJ and HB presented the 2013/2014 accounts, which were showed a deficit of £1,059 for this year due to the loss incurred by the festival and the money spent on hiring Trees for Cities to help with the tree planting.

There was still an accumulated surplus of £5,518, built up from previous years.

5. Festival

There was discussion as to whether there would be sufficient volunteers to put on the festival next year due to the resignation of LS as well as JI moving away and others not being able to dedicate as much time as previous years.

It was agreed that NT would send a note to the membership asking for people to come forward and help and, if there was not sufficient interest, it was likely that next year's festival would be postponed.

As the festival debrief had taken place in the previous meeting, there was not much discussion in this meeting as to the festival other than to express disappointment that the festival had not been as much of a success as in previous years due to the bad weather.

6. Trees and wildlife

15 new trees were to be planted on 15 November and these had all been adopted already. There was discussion as to whether it would be practical to plant more trees in the spring and also about other wildlife matters such as using the remains of GB's tree as a loggery.

7. Trim Trail

MJ provided two quotes for the Trim Trail now that the Big Lottery Fund grant had been finalised. The BLF had provided a grant of £9,768 which needed to be accompanied by £1,500 of the Friends' own funds.

The two companies were Fenland and Playdale, who both quoted around £12-£13k for 7 pieces of equipment. There was a discussion about which equipment looked the best and it was decided that safegrass matting should be installed as this would keep the grass in better condition.

He said that both companies would be carrying out site visits but the group agreed to go with Fenland in principle for installation in March/April 2015.

8. Any other business

A motion was passed to support the proposal for Ravensbourne Park Gardens to set up its own friends group and for a path to be created from Ladywell Fields through Iona Close to link up with Ravensbourne Park Gardens and on to Blythe Hill Fields.

GB mentioned that somebody was interested in donating £1,100 towards a new bench in the park and he would liaise with NT about this.

8. Future meetings

15 January 2015.

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.