



MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

7.30pm on 26th November at the Honor Oak Pub, SE23

In Attendance

James Cross, Ellie Rogers, Zaria Greenhill, Nicholas Taylor, Dave Lowry, Gavin Bolam, Cathy Ashley, Jim Smith, Anne Scott, Austen Jones, Zoe Alexander, Tom W, Alona Sheridan

Apologies: Marcel Jenkins, Judith Hendley, Brigid Macleod, Leo Stevens, Alan Bailey, John Grimwood, Sydney Couldridge, Harry Carnegie

Welcome

JC welcomed everybody to the AGM.

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes from the meeting on 29 July 2015 prepared by NT together with minutes of the AGM prepared by ER were circulated. Comments can be made regarding accuracy via our website.

NT confirmed that the AGM was quorate. It was agreed that the FOBH constitution would be updated at a future meeting.

Resignation and Appointments

At the AGM, the role of Treasurer did not change - NT explained that DL had confirmed that he would be prepared to stand as Treasurer. However, he was unable to attend the AGM due to work commitments. It was proposed and agreed that MJ would stand in as Treasurer until such time as DL could attend a future quorate meeting and be voted in. As DL was able to attend this meeting and there was sufficient attendance DL was unanimously voted in as Treasurer.

It was agreed that the election of additional committee members would be delayed until after the constitution has been revised.

AJ asked why financial records following on from this year's festival had not been published in July and that the delay was not acceptable. DL advised that as he had just taken on the role of treasurer he understood that the financial year ran from October/September and time to get the data correct was needed.

Improvements to park (update)

GB advised that he was still in the process of identifying whom the owner of the wall was where at the last meeting a mural was possible considered as one of the potential upgrades to the park. ER agreed to look into this further.

NJ advised that plans to install two benches were still planned but that we were awaiting details from Glendale on their provision.

AJ made the suggestion that a refreshment van of some kind should be made available at weekends in the park. Discussion took place between members as to whether toilets would need to be provided and reference was made to Chris Thompson (Glendale) comments regarding cost and re-location of water pipes-advised to be several thousand pounds. NJ advised any toilets would be best located near the existing standpipe. CA advised that there used to be toilets located there however these were vandalised in the 1990's and removed. Discussions looked at what other parks had provided in Hilly Fields park, Mayow park and Sydenham Wells park, whether such a facility could be created in an "open" park without security.

AJ made requests that we went to a vote with those present on allowing a mobile food van to be placed in the park, however there was opposition to this, as it was agreed that any decision regarding the future of the would require public consultation and vote. NJ suggested a meeting with Glendale to get things moving. Discussed Groundwork survey of 2005. Thought likely to be out of date. AS advised they undertook Groundwork survey a few years ago.

Match funding

JC provided a brief update on the larger funding programmes linked to ENTRUST (attached). JC suggested that any medium term strategy to improve the park would need to adopt the standards of consultation and that a wide range of funding opportunities would need to be made clear. DL thought this may need to be focused on also as festival only source of fundraising. JC agreed to apply for local funding by deadline of 11th Jan from Crofton Park Assembly.

By unanimous vote, it was agreed that park the FOBH would purchase 8 foxproof bins and that the festival 2016 would go ahead.

Trees and wildlife

ZG was able to advise on two new exciting events for the fields in December:

- 3rd December Nature's Gym day with Judith from Glendale-help build a stag beetle loggery together with sapling planting.
- 12th December logs and carols (ER advised the Hummy Mummies would also be attending to sing !) and that local residents were encouraged to bring mince pies and refreshments. A loggery will also be built at this event but nearer the children's play area.

Both events would require the remnants of the poplar tree removed from GB's garden. Currently BG and ZG had spoken with different Glendale representatives involved in the removal of the tree (Judith Simmons at Glendale and Ryan Stanbrook from Kent whom was removing the timber).



ZG also advised of ticket to London Parks City meeting on 1st December-no FOBH members able to attend

AOB

JS suggested that the cleaning of the Gazebo's (Key FOBH asset for festival) be undertaken well in advance of 2016 festival. All agreed

NJ advised he had stood down as secretary but still wished to attend Lewisham Parks forum as a representative of FOBH- agreed.

AJ was asked to leave the meeting as his interjections it; AJ failed to support the members in furthering the aims of the group. It was proposed that AJ should not be allowed to attend further meetings or be a member of the Friends of Blythe Hill Fields. This was agreed unanimously.

Future meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting would look at the formation of the 2016 Festival sub-committee.

14th January 2016 at the Honor Oak.

All welcome. For the festival to keep going we need more volunteers, whether this is in promoting the festival, setting and clearing away or helping out on the day. Please support us!

James Cross 30th November 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.

