



# MINUTES OF AGM 2015

7.30pm on 21 October 2015, at the Honor Oak Pub, SE23

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## In Attendance

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James Cross, Ellie Rogers, Zaria Greenhill, Nicholas Taylor, Marcel Jenkins, Gavin Bolam, Cathy Ashley, Sydney Couldridge, Jim Smith, Ann Maunton, Harry Carnegie. Also present: Chris Thompson (Glendale).

Apologies: David Lowry, Judith Hendley, Brigid Macleod, Leo Stevens, Alan Bailey, Anne Scott, John Grimwood, Austen Jones.

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## Welcome

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JC welcomed everybody to the AGM.

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## Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

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The minutes from the meeting on 29 July 2015 were being prepared by NT and would be circulated shortly.

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## Resignations and Appointments

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Chairman - JC was unanimously re-elected as Chairman.

Secretary - NT resigned from his role as secretary and ER was unanimously elected as secretary. Subsequently JC noted and thanked NT for his considerable contribution to the Friends.

Treasurer - 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 meeting and be voted in.

People and Wildlife - ZG was re-elected unanimously as chair of the People and Wildlife group.

The festival committee was not elected, this election being deferred to the new year.

NT raised whether it would be prudent to consider updating the Constitution. This was agreed and shall be discussed at a forthcoming meeting.

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## Financial Report

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MJ presented the 2014/15 accounts (copy appended) and these were agreed by those present. It was noted that:

- the Festival 2015 raised £2,908.81 (page 4) and that this was a fantastic achievement;
- the balance of £6,651.29 is the highest balance ever held by the Friends; and
- there are sufficient funds to invest in the infrastructure of the Fields.

MJ was thanked for his preparation of the accounts.

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## Festival

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As the festival debrief had taken place in the previous meeting, there was little to discuss. GB thanked JC, BM, JH and ER for their contribution. Due to the change in the circumstances of the many of the Festival 2015 committee members, it was noted that additional volunteers would be required to put on the festival next year.

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## Trim Trail

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MJ discussed the installation of the Trim Trail and it was agreed that it was a great success. It was agreed that the Friends would purchase some way markers/signage for the Trail, the estimated cost being between £150 - £200. MJ and SC would work on the designs and circulate these for agreement. CT agreed that Glendale will fit the markers.

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## Trees and wildlife

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ZG reported the following:

- the tree planting for 2015 has been very successful, with only 4 of the trees planted in 2014 and 2015 having died. There was a core group of 8 tree waterers who had met consistently over the Spring and Summer and done a great job. ZG was in the process of arranging for 15 additional trees to be planted in March 2016;
- despite various measures being taken, the extended verges had been mown over repeatedly. ZG is in discussions with Glendale about the erection of a temporary wall/barrier to protect the verges;
- two bug hotels/loggeries are soon to be built in the park, using a tree trunk from GB's garden; and
- an application to Kew Gardens for funding for plants/bulbs is in process. It is anticipated that funding will be granted.

It was also noted that ZG's bat walk had been a great success.

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## Improvements to the Park

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Two additional benches are to be installed following a donation by the Friends and a local resident. NT, GB and CT will liaise and arrange this.

There being a balance of approximately £5,500, the following improvements to the park were discussed:

- Fox proof bins – CT recommended the installation of Broxap bins and confirmed that whilst Glendale could not replace the bins, Glendale would pay for the bins to be installed (£100-140 per bin). CT had negotiated a deal for the bins, whereby the bins would cost £225 plus VAT and delivery of around £50. It was proposed that 7 bins would be purchased (subject to formal agreement). CT would speak with Martin Hyde at Lewisham Council to see if we could improve upon this quote.
- Installation of a carved, wooden sign – MJ will research this. GB will also speak with local schools to see if they could assist with this project. CA will speak with her neighbours, who may be able to assist. CT will investigate improving the current signage.
- Drinking fountain – CT estimated that the cost of installing a drinking fountain would be £10,000 - £17,000, due to a lack of existing services/infrastructure. CT agreed to obtain further information about the services currently in the park.
- Street art – GB would speak with the owners of the land adjoining the Montacute Road entrance to see whether they would be happy for the alleyway walls to be painted with a mural.

At JC's suggestion, the above options would be listed on the Friends' Facebook page in due course, so that all members (and not just those who attended the meetings) would be able to vote for their favoured option.

CA/GB proposed that match funding be obtained. JC agreed to contact local refuse companies for funding, as well as Tesco/Groundwork and Entrust. ER suggested we ask local companies for funding. NT will speak with the Lewisham Parks Forum for their view/backing, before approaching MH at Lewisham Council. NT will check whether we can apply for funding from the Crofton Park Ward Assembly fund. ER will check whether we are eligible for funding under the Evening Standard's funding programme.

It was noted that many park users would like a café/storage/toilets on the Fields. There was discussion as to how this could be achieved and it was concluded that significant levels of additional funding would be required.

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## Future meetings

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26 November 2015 – a short meeting will be held at 7.30 pm, followed by a festive drink at 8.30 pm.

ER  
26.10.15



### 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.*