



FRIENDS OF BLYTHE HILL FIELDS

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 19 March 2015

Meeting held 19 March 2015 at the Honor Oak

Present : James Cross, Chair (JC), Nicholas Taylor, Secretary (NT), Marcel Jenkins (MJ), Gavin Bolam (GB), Cathy Ashley (CA), Sydney Couldridge (SC), Molly Bertrand, Anne Scott, Ellie Rogers (ER), Brigid Macleod (BM), Austen Jones (AJ), Chris Thompson (Glendale)

Apologies : Leo Stevens, Hugh Brown (HB), Judith Hendley (JH), Alan Bailey, Martin Moss, Fiona Gibb

1. Welcome by Chair

2. **Minutes** : Those of 29 January 2015 not yet available. Those for 12 February 2015 approved.

3. **Request by Austen Jones, as set out in his message to the Secretary dated 6 March, for a Special Meeting to be held** 'at which our members should be allowed to vote on a motion to dissolve the Friends of Blythe Hill Fields according to point 10 of BHF Constitution, which would require a two-thirds majority'. The meeting listened at length to Mr Jones's reasons for wanting to dissolve the Friends and revert to the old title of 'User Group'. Members were mystified what difference this would make to the group's activities ; it was pointed out by MJ that the Constitution was prepared and approved when the original 'User Group' name was still in use, so there was no change of any significance. Members were also puzzled by Mr Jones's relentlessly negative view of everything done by the Friends.

It became apparent to Mr Jones that he had no support for his views from anyone else present, so he agreed that his motion should not be put to the vote and should lie on the table.

4. Officer and Committee :

(a) **Festival Sub-Committee** : this was re-constituted with the following membership :
JC, NT, GB, ER, SC, BM, JH.

(b) **Minutes Secretary** : There were no volunteers.

5, 2015 Festival : There were brief progress reports and discussions on the following :

- (a) Fundraising** : Council 500 and Rotary Club 250 grants agreed ; Con of Blythe Hill Tavern had unexpectedly given 300 (when declining to run the Beer Tent) ; sponsorship by Sebastian Roche awaited [subsequently increased the 2014 payment of 500 to 750 this year]. **Raffle** : lots of work done by BM and GB on this – star prize (flat screen TV?) and others from local businesses (Sainsbury, Le Querce etc).
- (b) Site Layout** : approval for Surrey Docks Farm at fee of 500 ; GB refereeing competition between rival ice cream vans (hopefully 300-500 from each). **Beer Tent** : JC against micro-breweries with restricted own-products (agreed by meeting) ; he has seen at Horniman Farmers Market a promising Beer Seller with a wide range of beers and ciders.
- (c) Health & Safety** : problem of restrictions on working nurses as first-aiders - Tina at Seniors a possibility. GB negotiating with last year's loo-provider. NT in touch with Council re refuse collection - need for clearing up volunteers noted. NT also contacting Police Cadets supervisor..
- (d) Applications and Licences** : NT in touch with Gemma Buttell at Glendale re Large Event Notice and with Council re Temporary Event Notice and Gambling and Alcohol Licences. JC offer to get involved in this whole area gratefully accepted.
- (e) Entertainment / Music** : Much discussion. Agreed, with some dissent, to pay Blues Patrol 300 and Siobhan Parr 100 - no other payments to be made. CA will continue to talk with schools - Stillness the most likely. Local groups being pursued.
- (f) Children's Activities** : ER recruiting replacement Punch & Judy man, Circus Skills, etc. Idea of children's stage by woodland (by Punch & Judy). JH to be in charge of Children's Tent : facepainting, art, etc
- (g) Publicity & Promotion** : SE23 magazine, Lewisham Life, Kate Gould of SLP to be contacted. SC to do usual first poster appealing for volunteers and stallholders and later poster + flyers.
- (h) Stalls and Stallholders** : Previous stallholders contacted by LS – good response. Layout to be revised
- (i) Volunteers** ER to appeal on Facebook.

6. Secretary's Report and People & Wildlife Reports : Curtailed because of lack of time. Full reports at next General Meeting.

7, Date of Next General Meeting : to be arranged for after the festival . **Festival Sub-Committee** : 9 April.

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

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