



# AGM 2017

## MINUTES

8 pm on 30 October 2017 at the Blythe Hill Tavern

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### **In Attendance**

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James Cross, David Lowry, Ellie Rogers, Jim Smith, Suzanne McDougall, Marcel Jenkins, Fiona Salmon, Madeline Tanoto, Darren Francis, Kate Stroud, Rebecca O'Connor, Tim Part, Sandra Perrin, Jeff Perrin, Jane Aebi, Josh Smaller and Peter Maynard (Lewisham Council).

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### **Welcome**

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JC welcomed everybody to the meeting.

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### **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

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Prior to the meeting, the minutes the last meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and agreed.

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### **Peter Maynard/Community Gardens**

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PM introduced himself and apologised that the Glendale representative could not attend, due to unforeseen personal reasons.

PM confirmed he had reviewed the brief prepared by SB (attached at Appendix 1). He thinks that a community garden is a great idea. There is a similar garden at Manor House Gardens and it received a RHS merit. He confirmed that the bed by the noticeboard is a perfect location. Glendale would not maintain the bed, this would be the Friends' responsibility, but could provide some support to assist the Friends. Having a compost bin on the Fields would not be appropriate, but further thought could be given to whether it can be sited on the adjoining allotments. PM will consider this further. PM confirmed that he would support an onsite map and the Green Flag award.

There was further discussion about the internationally renowned Green Flag award, run by Keep Britain Tidy. Glendale is responsible for obtaining the award, and then maintaining it, under the contract. Lewisham Borough has 15 green flags presently. To obtain a flag, in summary the Friends

group must be actively involved, the park must be clean, have good facilities and feel safe. There was general discussion about the award and it was agreed by unanimous vote that we would like to obtain a Green Flag, in the next judging cycle. PM explained that he did not think that BHF not having a café or toilets would preclude it from the award. He will confirm this, and who will pay for the £300 application fee. Subsequently, MT confirmed that she would be happy to lead this.

→ PM

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## Zaria Greenhill and Leo Stevens

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JC invited all those present to introduce themselves to the group.

JC explained that normally he would prepare a summary of the year's achievements. However, as longstanding Committee Members Zaria Greenhill and Leo Stevens had chosen not to stand for the Committee this year, he wanted to summarise their significant achievements as part of the Friends and thank them for their hard work over the years.

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## Finance

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DL presented the accounts: [http://www.blythehillfields.org.uk/downloads/Accounts\\_2016\\_17.pdf](http://www.blythehillfields.org.uk/downloads/Accounts_2016_17.pdf)

DL confirmed that we had generally had a good year, as summarised at the September 2017 meeting. As at 30 October 2017, there is a cash balance of £12,410.09. ER noted that we have previously agreed the following expenditure:

- Playground Improvements (from 2016) £1,638
- Table Tennis Table £2,500
- Trim Trail Maintenance £500
- Reserve for 2018 Festival £5,000

It was agreed that the Friends would like to spend the resulting balance of £2,772.09, but that this would be decided at a future meeting having considered all proposals properly.

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## Elections

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The 2017-2018 committee was elected unanimously, as follows (brackets show area of interest):

- Chair - James Cross (fundraising)
- Treasurer - David Lowry (website)
- Secretary – Ellie Rogers
- People & Wildlife - Shahanara Begum (community garden), assisted by Darren Francis (Bio-diversity)
- Committee:
  - Kate Stroud (community garden and playground project)
  - Rebecca O'Connor (street art)
  - Suzanne McDougall (social media and support/fundraising)
  - Tim Part
  - Fiona Salmon (playground)
  - Jane Aebi

- Jim Smith (festival)
- Madeline Tanoto (festival, Green Flag)
- Marcel Jenkins (ping pong table)
- Nicholas Taylor (representative at LGSF meetings)

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## Future events

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It was agreed that the next Friends meeting would be held on Monday 20 November at 8pm. There was discussion about location/accessibility, ER noting that there were very few venues locally which would accommodate the group. After discussion, it was agreed by those present that the Blythe Hill Tavern was a good meeting place and that we were pleased to patronise one of our Festival supporters. ER invited anyone who was unable to attend the meeting, due to its location, timing etc., to email privately at [secretary@blythehillfields.org.uk](mailto:secretary@blythehillfields.org.uk).

It was agreed that we would hold a Christmas event on 3 December. We will sing carols and hold a P&W event. DF suggested we make bee boxes and confirmed he was happy to lead this. The details will be agreed at the meeting on 20 November. JC to prepare the risk assessment for the Council. ER to send a save the date.

→ JC, ER

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## AOB

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The following issues were raised:

- JS asked PM whether there was any Council funding available. PM explained that there was some available via the Local Assembly.
- JS asked about winter grass cutting, from a sports perspective. PM explained that the contract was performance based and therefore over the winter the cutting schedule is relaxed, but that the grass should still be maintained. ER explained that she had seen reference to BHF looking unkempt on social media, and indeed the Montacute Road entrance and the flower beds are full of weeds. PM explained that these issues should be raised with Glendale and if they are not resolved within the appropriate timeframe then there could be repercussions for Glendale. PM explained that ER/JC should remain the point of contact, so any issues should be raised with them first and they in turn can raise with Glendale/PM as appropriate.
- MT raised the issue of the Blythe Hill Lane entrance gate being unlocked and that cars had started to drive onto BHF. PM confirmed that this was not permitted. JS explained that we used to hold a key and asked that a copy of the key be provided. PM agreed to investigate. PM explained that if any cars or mopeds were on BHF, then this should be reported to the Police on 101 and to the Safer Neighborhood Team. Following FS's suggestion, the discussion moved onto creating a safer entrance at the Codrington Hill entrance. DF confirmed that he had seen children roll onto the road, despite their parents' best efforts. A barrier would prevent the scooters from riding in the Park. PM had seen a squeeze style gate used in Colliers Wood, but this prevented prams from entering the park. Further consideration would be given to this.

- DF raised the issue of fireworks and the resulting litter. There was discussion about how the Friends could limit the amount of rubbish. FS suggested a litter pick. It was agreed that this would take place on Monday 6 November, time to be agreed. ER to email Glendale to request support/collection of rubbish bags and would send a message requesting that people take home their rubbish. PM confirmed that fireworks and sparklers are not allowed on BHF and therefore the Friends should be careful not to be seen to be condoning the behaviour. → ER
- It was agreed that the meeting had been very productive and PM commended the Friends for their democratic approach and future plans.

ER  
14.11.17

**The Blythe Hill Community Garden proposal – garden of green**

What is the purpose of the garden?

What goals do you want to achieve by establishing a garden?

How will the garden be used?

Who is welcome to use the garden?

What features and programs will be included in the garden? (To be thought through)

*“The community garden gives local residents some quiet time, allows children to explore wildlife, and offers space that families can enjoy together”* Tate Morden community garden 2001

Let us make use of this vast green open space. Use the Flower Bed to create a community garden protocol. See if it works. By demonstrating the benefits to the wider community, we can provide a hands on planting experience of flowers and herbs, learn about growth, effect on wildlife, creating a habitat for little wild creatures. And give a constructive children’s activity. This will enhance communication with the locals and in time reduce crime.

The garden will begin as a none profit voluntary based garden. The garden will be maintained and looked after by volunteers from the local area who use the field for leisure and recreation. The fundamental gardeners will offer, commit and dedicate time in the up keeping of the garden.

The intention is to create a space that can grow with time, where people can learn about plants and herbs and even the wildlife; by relaxing in sewing seed and helping them to grow in the garden, all in all improves the well being of our community as a whole. We want this space to be a favourite spot that people enjoy and want to come to because there is a variety of pass time activities that family and individuals can encounter. The park in itself is attractive and has a unique feature of being an open fields. But by developing this idea of a natural community garden, this has a fare broader appeal on people who can potentially use the park.

A community garden will serve as an opportunity to learn about social responsibility through sustainable care of plants and herbs and develop a close-knit Blythe hill community on a regular basis. The FOBH are an organisation who are respective members of this community who will ensure the gardens longevity and sustainability for years to come. And this will be the beginning line of volunteers who will make the garden possible. To have a community garden is not only important for enhancing and improving the wildlife and environment, but also ensuring greater depths as part of an urban living. The garden will be placed on the flower bed of plants and herbs as an open and welcoming space that encouraged people to join in and be a part of the nurturing of this space.

As a parent and keen gardener, it is vital to build a network of people who too enjoy this field and want to garden with people, as a social experience. What better than to set up this community garden out from the branches of FOBH. We can say we have a responsibility to serve the locals as a majority of parks in our vicinity have some sort of garden that has residential presence. This functions as a positive for everyone.

As a garden up on the hill, on a field that has no gates for controlling the movement of who and when people use the park, the volunteers of the garden are responsible for keeping the garden a safe and friendly environment. So the community can rest-ashore and trust that there will be care in place where vandalism and abuse of nature has

taken place. Thus creating a robust garden area that withstand the dynamics of the field itself; remain resilient in maintaining the space at all times.

We want to reach out to the local and by making an active garden that has people's presence on a regular bases (we can do 2 days per week). This will make the field a more functional and purposeful space for anyone interested in getting green. Allowing conversation and a place of belonging.

This stands as a seek to create a community garden and not an allotment. A community garden works as a fabric towards making a space that benefits the social community in the local area. So the garden can be sustainable over a long period of time in a community setting.

#### Additional aspects to the garden

**I will provide photos and attempt to draw a plan sometime in the coming days.**

Space for Compost bins – wooden ones can stand in the corner of the park. Also leaf mould sacks can be placed near the compost bin.

Recording this process of a community garden in the making. Take photos and keeping a sketch book.

Wildlife log book

Onsite map of the park for the public

Green Flag award is a potential to look into