



MEETING MINUTES

8 pm on 26th Feb 2018 at the Blythe Hill Tavern

In Attendance

David, Ellie, Shanara, Marcel, Nicolas, Jo, Kate, Jim, Darren, Tim, Josh, Annie, Suzanne

Welcome

DL welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Agenda

1. Changes to the Committee:

DL briefed the meeting on the recent resignation of Friends Chair, James Cross. Gratitude was expressed by all for James's commitment to the Friends of Blythe Hill Fields over the last 4 years and his significant contribution to the success of the Blythe Hill Fields Festival during this time.

Election of New Chair: DL called for candidates for a new Chair and Ellie Rogers came forward. Her nomination was second and then confirmed by a unanimous vote.

Election of New Secretary: ER resigned as Secretary and nomination were requested for the role of Secretary. Suzanne McDougall was nominated and seconded and was confirmed in the role by a unanimous vote.

2. Table Tennis update / placement

Marcel updated all with final recommendations for the proposed Table Tennis Table. His recommendation of a galvanised steel table was approved by all as it offers the most flexible placement options and in addition to being weighted and fixed, is vandal, acid and graffiti proof.

Concern was expressed re drainage at either end of the table (Hilly Fields table cited as an example) and it was agreed that during install each end could be correctly adapted to address this before the matting was put in place.

Josh expressed concern about wind factor in any location. The group agreed this is inevitable in the Fields and just makes the activity more challenging and fun.

Placement: Three locations were suggested as they offered the best options for accessibility, visibility and practicality. The final placement (Option A) to the left of the hard surface opposite the playground was chosen as it provides: a flat surface, adequate drainage, and access for all ages. (Table would not be placed inside the playground which is aimed at under-12s only).

A vote was taken and approved by the majority to proceed with the purchase. David asked Marcel to secure final confirmation from Fiona as the purchase and installation of the table may have been included as part of the bid for playground improvements.

3. Trees – purchase of new trees

Suzanne briefed all on current Woodland Trust tree saplings offer. For a cost of £62 - 45 tree saplings and accompanying sticks etc can be purchased to plant in the Fields as replacements for previously lost trees. Woodland Trust recommended two options comprising Oak, Hornbeam and Birch or Hornbeam, Birch and Wild Cherry. Nicholas expressed concern about the viability of the proposed species, need for volunteers to oversee ownership and management of watering etc and issues around access to water.

Nicholas suggested that a walk-round the Fields to review current tree/planting status and map out potential sites and trees for pruning etc. It was agreed that this was a good idea and should take place at a later date once the weather has improved.

A vote was taken and it was decided to defer any purchase of new plants until Glendale have confirmed whether they will be replacing any of the lost trees.

ACTION: WHO? Contact Glendale re replacement of trees.

4. Seeds – application and event

Darren reported that he and Ellie had investigated a Kew Gardens scheme to secure native wild flower seeds as part of an initiative to attract native species and wildlife. They are drafting an application and if successful will secure free seeds to sow in the existing meadow area of the Fields. It was acknowledged that there wouldn't be much to show in the first year but there should be substantial results visible thereafter.

A change to the existing layout of the meadow was suggested to allow for easier access and more comfortable viewing of potential wildlife etc by park users. As any new layout would have to meet with Glendale's mowing regime and practices – a simple layout of two long planted strips with a wide path in between was mooted with the path being wide enough for Glendale to mow. Concerns were still raised around marking out and defining the area to ensure it isn't destroyed.

Event: All were in favour of a proposed Fork Walk event on March 31st to prepare the ground and turn it over in advance of any sowing.

If unsuccessful in our application to Kew Gardens, the group agreed to purchase seeds from the Friends' surplus for around £100.

ACTION: Darren and Ellie to complete Kew Gardens application

ACTION: Suzanne to notify Friends and mailing list of Fork Walk event, Saturday 31st March

5. Festival planning

The group discussed the impacts of both the 2018 date for Lewisham People's Day (which has effectively taken our regular slot in the local events calendar) and the loss of the significant participation by ex-Chair James Cross in co-ordinating and acting as chief steward during the Festival.

David recapped the options available – these are to hold a similar festival on a different date; the idea of a fallow year (not having a festival); or a smaller event.

Upon considerable discussion it was acknowledged that while the Festival has grown from a community Fun Day to a much grander affair – essentially our aim is still the same – to encourage new users to the Fields, we should not be constrained by the date. A vote was taken and it was strongly agreed that the 2018 Festival should go ahead.

a) Date: It was previously agreed that the 2018 Blythe Hill Fields Festival would take place on Saturday 7th July – the first Saturday in July as per the previous 10 years. This is not now possible as many of our suppliers and contributors – including the Police Cadets and Fun Fair are already scheduled to support People's Day. Jim raised the point that People's Day is a larger event and may attract a number of people who would otherwise attend our festival. Stallholders may also favour the larger event.

Alternative dates discussed were:

Saturday 30 th June 2018	N	Police Cadets, Fun Fair unavailable with several other events already scheduled for this date.
Sunday 1st July 2018	Y	Police Cadets, Fun Fair, BBQ, Craft Beer Cab tentatively available on this date
Saturday 14 th July 2018	N	Many of the organising committee are away on this date.

Decision was taken to urgently review and confirm all logistics requirements and availabilities for an event on Sunday 1st July - including; stall holders, Fun Fair, Police Cadet volunteers, Food Stalls, Portable Toilets, Stage hire etc. See actions below.

b) Scope of Event: An urgent Festival Planning Meeting has been called for Tuesday 6th March to review all availabilities, logistics and any challenges or extra costs a change of date and day might incur.

After a brief discussion we agreed that 12-5 may not be appropriate for a Sunday and the timings on the day will be reviewed by the festival organising group.

- Action: Jim highlighted potential storage issues if we have to store equipment for an extra day but confirmed he will investigate our existing equipment contacts and straw bales suppliers etc.
- Action: Annie will secure confirmation of availability for Fun Fair, Beer Cab, Police Cadets etc
- Action: Fiona (absent from the meeting) has previously agreed to contact Stall Holders
- Action: Marcel will contact the Portable Toilet providers
- Action: Josh agreed to contact the Stage Hire supplier

6. **AOB**

No further business was raised.

7. **Future Meeting Dates**

Next Friends Committee Meeting - yet to be agreed

Emergency Festival Planning Meeting – Tuesday 6th March 2018, Blythe Hill Tavern.

SMcD

26.2.18