

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF GREENWICH PARKS FORUM COMMITTEE

13 May 2010

7.30 PM CHARLTON HOUSE

Present:

John Webb
S V Dickinson
S McFarlane
Nick Day
Kate Powling
Bob Thomas
Carole Thomas
Albert Castle
Dave Stevenson
Annie Hart
Bee Twidale

Apologies:

Gulle Stubbs
Jim Gillman
Sarah Van Gogh
Carol Kenna
Frank Ward
Maureen O'Mara
John Briggs

Chair: Terry Powley

Minutes: Carol Farr

1) Minutes of the last meeting (25 March 2010) agreed. 'LDF' corrected.

2) Matters Arising.

Consultative Processes. Members of the Friends Forum Committee observed that the Management Plans had not been formally released.

3) Apologies for Absence. Gulle Stubbs, Jim Gillman, Sarah van Gogh, Carol Kenna, Frank Ward, Maureen O'Mara, John Briggs

4) Metropolitan Open Land. TP described the concept and gave examples of encroachments. The question concerned how firm Friends of Parks groups think they should be on the question of encroachment. There should be an awareness of the vulnerability of open land. The views of Friends of Parks groups and Greenwich Council on the Christ Church School issue (backing on to the Shooters Hill woodlands may not be in agreement. The Committee discussed the issue. Priority of use is an important question: brownfield sites should be used before greenfield; there should be consideration of ecological, environmental factors and availability for community use. Often however community use conflicts with developed use. Woodlands Farm was mentioned as an example where both educational and community uses coexisted well within a green, ecologically sensitive site. The need for expertise was noted. The Council favours the concrete playground. Because the land that is to be used for the extension of the school/playground is Metropolitan Open Land, any application must go to the Mayor of London as well. The aim is to protect the heritage.

5) Arrangements for Parksfest 2010. KP summarized the actions that Friends groups planning PARKSfest events need to take and deadlines (such as filing TENs). A discussion of PR for the events followed, with disappointment expressed at the minimal publicity in 'What's On', lack of mention in 'Greenwich Festivals' section. Steps could be taken to be sure that PARKSfest events are not left out of Greenwich's publicity next year and that a partnership with the community is carried out. **KP** and **TP** informed the meeting that they would begin working in earnest to get the PARKSfest funding in hand before the events began. It was pointed out that last year's cheque was issued on 20 May 2009.

6) Issues from Friends Groups. TP opened the floor to a discussion of general issues that Parks Friends groups had. The issues raised concerned 1) communication, and 2) consistency of procedures.

7) AOB.

DS and **JW** informed the group of Jonathan Bangs' cycling accident and recovery. **TP** asked **JW** to convey the Forum's best wishes to him.

TP understood that Greenwich was still searching for a new head of Parks. The Friends Forum Committee would ask **RG** about the new position, possible restructuring of staff, funding and other issues.

ND told the Committee that he went to a training session day on trees, run by Beth Jones, and he recommended it highly. Also he commended **SvG**'s 'I Love My Common', a display of children's work in the Woolwich Town Hall foyer, 22 June to 2 July, in connection with Community Awareness Day, Friday, 18 June. A further 'Zero Tolerance Day' was planned but the date had not so far been set.

Meeting ended 9 pm.

Next Meeting Thursday, 1 July 2010, 7:30 pm, Charlton House. Carol Farr to book.