

Minutes of the meeting held at Woolwich Centre September 28th 2017

Present at the meeting:

Terry Powley Chair & Eltham Pk S. & N.
Dave Stevenson. Treasurer & Kidbrooke Green.
Bee Twidale Secretary
Laurie Baker Well Hall & Shootershill
Gulle Stubbs Maryon & Maryon Wilson
Tom Wareham Shootershill
Julia Grollman Sutcliffe
Liz McDermott Pet's Cemetery
Greenwich Parks Estates & Open Spaces: Rob Goring and Chris Elliott.

Apologies for absence:

Stephen O'Conner Vice Chair & Rockcliffe
Janet Thompson Horn Park.
Kris Inglis Shrewsbury Park
Robert Thompson Horn Park
Nick Day Plumstead

2) Minutes of the AGM 20th April 2017.

The minutes were passed as an accurate record.

3) Parks fest 2017.

T.P. reported that 10 Friends Groups took part; the weather held fine and our "visitors" numbers were well up on previous years. It seems that the local populace values these annual events, run by the volunteers of their local park's Friends Group! The Forum Parks Fest steering group submitted a huge report document to RBG arts and culture dept.

R.G. This was well received by the officers and received lots of positive reports.

T.P. 2017 was the last year of the 3yr funding cycle. We will have to wait and see what the forthcoming budget will be.

4) Governance Issues: The new P.E. & O.Spaces document:

T.P. RBG has given us another standard for our Parks Friends Group's constitutions. The Forum needs to look at this in detail. It will be sent to all friends groups tomorrow, Friday September 29th. Please could all groups review and discuss the document and pass their comments to **Chris Elliott by October 20th**.

R.G. P.E. & O.S. have been looking at the Friends Groups' constitutions: the present documents were initiated in 2005!

C.E. was charged with up dating the document and had looked at pro-formers form 7 other local authorities both in and outside London plus other groups such as GAVS.

R.G. RBG would like all groups to consider this document and adopt it. It would be good to have everyone singing from the "same song-sheet".

D.S. Each group will need to check the new document with their existing constitution.

R.G. Can each individual group read the document and give PEOS their feed back please.

T.P. We will need to make sure the new structure is not overwhelming for Forum membership.

T.W. One point that needs clarifying is the Friends' liability insurance for working parties.

R.G. Unless using a chain saw, accidents using garden tools, slips and trips are covered by the Council.

L.B. asked if this could be clarified.

G.S. Regarding finance, we don't have an auditor; how much money do you need to have in a Friends Of Parks account before an auditor is needed?

R.G. We are definitely not expecting anyone to employ an auditor. The Friend's management committee can simply nominate someone outside their group who they have confidence in, to check the Friends books.

C.E. Could we add treasurer's report accepted at the group's AGM?

T.P. For around 12 years the friends groups have had a working relationship with the Council but we need to make sure the tone of this document is ameliorated. The friends groups are independent of the council. When the individual groups feed back to PE&OS and the groups' comments have been considered; can we please have a discussion group with both the Forum Officers and PE& OS? The aims of the paper need to have more about the environment and ecology of our parks.

5) Parks Estates and Open Spaces: Latest developments.

The re-organised council structure puts us under the department of the Directorate of Community and Environment under the leadership of Catriona Delaney.

The Strategy Action will go to cabinet in the next few weeks to be signed off.

This year 12 Green Flag awards retained.

Twinkle Park has received a Veolia grant to re-instate their pond.

The Point, Blackheath, has a new viewing point and signage. This will be opened Sunday October 1st @ 2.45.

G.L.A. The Mayor has initiated a draft environment plan and grant funding for new trees. Avery Hill has applied for funding to plant their new avenue. The closing date for a trees application was September 30th

More Mayoral funding is available to improve access to open green spaces. The deadline is the end of October. (See GLA website, Greener City Fund)

J.G. Can we please have an update of PE & OS management structure? **Action R.G.**

6) News from the Parks.

T.P. (Eltham Park North & South) The Council supported Tennis in the Parks holiday Programme.

This also included Kidbrooke Green and Plumstead Common.

G.S. Maryon Wilson held a very successful bat walk. They also had a walk about with Gary to highlight areas needing some TLC. This included their Green Flag which is getting very old and decrepit.

R.G. Charlton Park skate park due to open October 21st.

7) AOB.

L.McD. Their Friends group had experienced problems with Charlton Lido café. Only users of the pool and gym are served. All others are excluded. They wondered why?

Date of next meeting: Thursday November 23rd, Woolwich Town Hall.