

Minutes of the A.G.M. held at Charlton House November 17th 2011

Present at the meeting:

Terry Powley	Chair
Bee Twidale	Secretary
Dave Stevenson	Treasurer
Annie Hart	Hervey Sports Grnd
Gael Dundas	Mycenae Gdns.
David Stokes	Fairy Hill
Paul McQuillen	Avery Hill Pk.
Carol Howcroft	Fairy Hill
June Hurst	Fairy Hill
Gulle Stubbs	Maryon/Maryon Wilson Parks
Paul Bren.	Maryon/Maryon Wilson Parks
Janet Thomson	Horn Park
Bob King	Horn Park
Ken Hobday	Bostal Woods
Albert Castle	Kidbrooke Green
F.J. King	Observer, GBC/CPT

Apologies for absence:

Bob & Carol Thomas. Susan Proudfoot.

Speaker for 2011 AGM Ray Gerlach; Greenwich Borough Plans for London Olympics.

Mr Gerlach distributed to members present at the meeting an Olympic Jargon/Acronym dictionary and a summary of Olympic/Paralympic events.

Mr Gerlach was involved in the bidding process for the Olympics which have taken 7 years in the planning! This has been the biggest planning event in the UK since WW2. Greenwich is the largest Olympic venue outside the Olympic Park.

He gave us some dates for our diaries:

- 21.6.'12 Cultural Olympics Signature festival kicks off in Greenwich with the torch relay.
- 27.7.'12 Olympic opening ceremony.
- 28.7.'12 First gold medal shooting event at the Royal Artillery.
- 12.8.'12 Olympic closing ceremony.
- 29.8.'12 Paralympic opening ceremony.
- 8.9.'12 Last event in Greenwich.
- 9.9.'12 Paralympic closing ceremony.

Outlining some of the planning procedure Mr Gerlach mentioned the plans for emergencies.

- Command and control structure has Greenwich chief exec. in overall charge.
- Interface with GLA operations for Fire, Police and Ambulance.
- It is part of the 3 levels, Gold, Silver, and Bronze Local Authority Emergency Structure.

Transport Arrangements:

- New Olympic route network.
- Cable car link to the dome.
- D.L.R. Woolwich to Stratford.
- Thames Clipper River Service.

On receipt of Olympic tickets a one day travel card will be enclosed as part of the drive to use the Public Transport System for the games.

Cultural Olympiad.

- Aims to promote and celebrate our 200 cultural communities in the borough.
- Creates a programme to allow local residents to celebrate as a community.
- Aims to raise the profile of Greenwich Borough and its opportunities.
- Aims to promote future tourism and inward investment.

Other cultural events:

- Peninsula festival.
- Big screen live sites.
- Royal Borough launch Jan. 3rd. Follow up events in April.

Schools:

- Get Set programme.
- Design a jump competition (for the cross country event.)
- Sportathon: June 20th week; London 2012 Inspire Mark

Employment Business Skills:

- 3 local business 2012 opportunity events across the borough.
- BBC 2012 London work experience for 5HB's
- Catering and security focus.
- Security Officers, Managers, Food service Assistants, Kitchen Porters.
- Nearly 30% of the contractor workforce from 5HB's.
- Westfield jobs & Olympic Park Site jobs post games.

Volunteering:

- LOGOG Volunteers - 75,000 Games Makers.
- GLA Volunteers - 8,000 Ambassadors.

Sports legacy:

- Hornfair Park BMX track.
- Charlton Lido.
- Crown Woods and Thomas Tallis Schools. These new Badminton, Basket Ball, Gymnastics and Martial Arts facilities are up to regional standard.
- Time to Shine. Contractor funded; 20 disabled athletes to attend Stoke Mandeville Sports Centre.
- Power Chair Football, 10 chairs funded @ the Waterfront.
- Starting Blocks: Commenced 2007; 57 young athletes sponsored so far. 6 athletes from Greenwich now competing in Olympic Games.

Look and feel:

- Olympic banners for all our shopping centres.

Playground to Podium:

- £4.2M investment.
- 15 outdoor gyms in place in our parks.
- 2012 trees.
- 12 Green Flags by 2012.
- New Playgrounds.

Ray Gerlach concluded with a thank you to each park friends group for the "Parks Fests" we have organised for the Cultural Olympics.

Questions "from the floor":

Q: What plans are in place to stop our local hospitals from being overloaded?

A: The ambulance service will have on street facilities. Homerton Hospital, Hackney, is the designated hospital.

Greenwich Parks Friends Forum AGM

Chairman's report: Terry Powley.

It has been a very successful year in which the Forum has met on 7 occasions. There has been a consistent attendance at our meetings and the absence of a few of our stalwarts due to work and other commitments has been balanced by the involvement of reps. of new parks groups.

This year has also seen real advances in the profile of our parks. The completion of "Playground to Podium" programme has resulted in extensive improvements to a number of parks. The Green Flag was awarded to two more parks, Fairy Hill and Avery Hill Park, and the Council is on course to achieve its target of 12 green flags by 2012. A significant number of individual groups have continued to be successful in attracting external funding for new initiatives in their park. Well Hall Pleasaunce planting new trees; St Alfege's bird feeding stations and Sutcliffe Park's hedgerow planting.

Issues:

At the beginning of the year, we set out three priorities for discussion and action: the enforcement of the order against bike and dog nuisance; the impact of the budgeting cuts on Parks and Open Spaces and the fight against encroachment of open land in the Borough. These priorities have been at the centre of our discussions this year. The extension of Christ Church School's playground on to Eltham Common has now gone to appeal. It was due to be heard in August but will now be determined in February next year due to a minor injury sustained by the inspector! There was no consensus within the Forum about the location of the Equestrian Centre on land close to Woodlands Farm but we did urge that the impact of the development on trees, woodlands and open spaces would be limited as far as possible. We responded to the Council's Core Strategy draft. Though we were supportive of the aspirations expressed in the document; we did lodge our concerns that aspirations should not be surrendered when subjected to pressure by the service needs of schools and hospitals. Despite the Council's equivocal stance on the protection of open spaces, we were delighted that a firm decision was taken to prevent any building on the Hervey Road Sports ground and congratulations are due to Annie Hart and her colleagues for their determined and sustained campaign. We have continued to have constructive relationships with the Council, though there has been some controversy over the damage caused to the headstones in St Alfege Park. The Council has now prohibited the Friends groups from carrying out major improvements within their parks. This is not the place to go into any details in this case but it is to be hoped that the friends group can reach agreement on its future and that the Council can be clear on its expectations of groups.

Speakers.

We welcomed 5 speakers over the course of the year, all of whom provided us with information and insight that strengthened our resolve to protect and improve our parks and open spaces. At our AGM last January, Patrick Phillips and Lorraine Simpson, senior managers in the London Borough of Bromley, told us of the partnerships they have developed with the local community and how Friends of Parks groups have been given a degree of control over a number of facilities and activities in the borough. Louise Durose, Greenwich Councils' Community Safety and Enforcement Officer, attended to talk about the work of BARK and how it was increasing awareness about the care of dogs and the understanding of dog control orders across the borough. Councillor John Fahy joined us in June to bring us up to date on the Forum structure and management of the Parks and Open Spaces Department. In August Joe Woodcock, the Council's arboriculturalist, talked about the work of his team and its arrangements for the maintenance of the 40,000 trees in parks, woodlands highways and schools that they are responsible for.

Parksfest.

This summer was the third Parksfest season and here is no doubt that it has been constantly recognised as a deeply valued feature of the summer in Greenwich. The programme has increased in size; this year 11 Friends groups organised 24 events. In the previous year 10 groups ran 12 events and the programme has increased in volume and reach. The programme met the Council's required monitoring data despite some very adverse weather

conditions. This year 10,204 people attended these events compared to 9,514 in 2010. 169 artists and performers were involved compared to 151 in 2010; 247 volunteers were involved in the delivery compared to 152 in 2010. Partner organisations amounted to 81 compared to 59 in 2010. We hope to build on this process next year, in what will be the last of the series under the Cultural Olympics. If we are able to continue after 2012 we will need to begin to consider an active fundraising strategy.

Thanks.

Finally I would like to thank my colleague officers, Dave and Bee, for their hard work over the year; Annie Hart and, more recently, Janet Thompson who have attended the London Network meetings on behalf of the Forum and to all of you who ensure the success of your friends group at local level; yet still find the time and commitment to contribute to the work of the Forum at Borough level.

Lastly, I would like to thank Councillor John Fahy and Rob Goring and his colleagues at P & O Spaces for their continued support.

Treasure's Report:

DAVE CAN YOU PLEASE ADD YOUR BIT?

Election of Forum officers:

No nominations for forum officers have been received.

The current chair, treasurer and secretary agreed to stand for another year.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Regretfully there was no time to discuss this.

Planning Issues:

Eltham Common: The planning inspection would now take place February 8th 7 9th 2012.

Equine Centre near Woodlands Farm:

As far as we know the planning has gone through

Reports from local park groups.

Regretfully there was no time to discuss this.

Any other business:

No time to discuss this.

Date of next meeting.

THURSDAY January 5TH. 7.30 CHARLTON HOUSE. Dutch Room.