

Friends of Palewell Common & Fields

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 31 Jan 2019 at 7.00 pm at 49 Hertford Avenue

Present: Jessica Rettie (Chair), Robyn Phillips, Andy Sutch, Antony Hunt, Rikki Marks, James Thornton, David Evans.

1. Apologies for Absence: Dhun Kenny, Bernard Adams.
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 Oct 1018: the Minutes were approved.
3. Matters Arising: The following points were made in relation to the issues discussed in October –
 - Jessica said that she had prepared an autumn update for posting on our website etc.
 - Some members had not received the text of a message to be used to recruit new members - David said he would resend it.
 - Jessica had simplified the membership form for posting on the website.
 - Jessica had not followed up on the seating around the scrape but this would be discussed under the conservation item on the agenda.
 - The Halloween event had been a big success and the conservation days had gone well.
 - James had emailed Richmond about golf and received a response which he had circulated to committee members – the position would be discussed later in the agenda.
 - Jessica did not have the email addresses for the football clubs so had not been able to email them about litter. Andy said he would follow this up and speak to them.
 - Jessica said that the website was not yet up to date. She would speak to Justine. Robyn and David said they would be happy to take on the task of updating it. Jessica would check with Justine.

Action: *Jessica would speak to Justine about the updating of the website and let Robyn and David know if they should take any action.
Andy would speak to the football clubs about litter.*

4. Finance report: Andy Sutch said the current balance was £2694.27. The mistaken payments into the account had all been corrected. We had more funds available than last year and would have no difficulty in funding plants for the scrape.
5. Membership report: In Dhun's absence it was noted that the current number of paid up members was 51 – down on the number a year ago. It was agreed that each committee member would try to recruit a couple of new members.
6. Antony noted that there was a "keep fit" Boot Camp event for charity on the Common on the afternoon of Saturday 9 Feb. It was agreed that we would use it for recruiting new members with our posters, table and recruitment literature. Jessica, Robyn, Andy, James and David agreed to turn up at 1.30pm on 9 Feb for an hour or so.

Action: *David to resend the text of a recruitment email to Committee members with the request that members should try to recruit 2 new members each.*

Committee members to turn up on the Common at 1.30pm for a recruitment drive to coincide with the Charity event.

7. Conservation and volunteer days: Rikki said that two conservation days arranged by Richmond with TCV volunteers had gone well - although with only a few local volunteers. During the second day the available wood chips had been spread on the paths. Richmond had however delivered more wood chips after the event – so these could be spread at a future event. Rikki said she would arrange further dates in the spring. It was agreed that the priority should be to plant up the scrape – which was not yet in a good state. New seating could wait. Rikki would speak to Tasha and repeat our willingness to contribute to the cost of plants.

Action: *Rikki to arrange future conservation days with Richmond and speak to Tasha about plants for the scrape to be part-funded by the Friends.*

8. Sports update: James reported that he had heard from Richmond about the issues on the golf course. The condition of the course had deteriorated and there seemed to be only limited progress. It was agreed that the Friends would continue to press for the course to be better maintained and to be more available for use (for example it was not clear why it was currently locked for most of the week). We would also support any voluntary efforts to encourage more players.

9. Andy reported that the new tennis coaches were running more group sessions. The condition of the back courts was still poor although they were being cleaned regularly. He continued to hope that the LTA would provide some funding for improvements. The football clubs continued to be successful and there was no evidence of friction between them.

10. Jessica said that she had heard from John Hockley who had built an excellent new website for the boules players. This included a reference to Friends membership and a link to our new membership form. Boules seemed to be thriving. It was agreed that we should arrange a local Friends Boules tournament for June so that we could publicise it at the AGM.

11. AGM date: It was agreed the 2019 AGM would be on 9 May. David agreed to book the All Saints hall. The next meeting of the Committee at the beginning of April would finalise the detailed arrangements. It was important that we increased publicity for the AGM – including social media, Posters, fliers and notices in local Church magazines.

Action *David to book the All Saints Church hall for the AGM on 9 May. The next meeting will look at detailed arrangements and a possible local Boules competition in June.*

12. Other items:

- There was a short discussion about the use of the upstairs changing rooms. Andy said there was a cross Richmond problem arising from the rules of the sports Governing bodies. He was already looking to find a solution and would report back to the committee.

- *Note added after the meeting* – Bernard Adams sent an email saying that he hoped the Friends could repeat the Easter Egg hunt this year. This could be discussed at the next meeting which would be before Easter.

Action: *Andy to report back on the changing rooms.*

Bernard to raise a 2019 Easter Egg hunt to be arranged by the Friends.

11. Date of next meeting: It was agreed that we should look for a date in early April ahead of Easter and the AGM.

Action: *David to find dates for the next meeting*

12. The meeting closed at 8.00pm.