

Friends of Palewell Common & Fields

Minutes of Committee Meeting 17.06.2015 at 49 Hertford Avenue

Present: David Evans (Chairman), Andy Sutch, Jessica Rettie, Justine Nagaur, Angela Howorth, Angela Stride, Ranjeet Panesar, Keith Hutchinson (joined the meeting later).

1. Apologies for Absence: Rikki Marks, Dhun Kenny, John Hockley, Bernard Adams, Jacqui Pattison.

2. Welcome New Committee Members: The Chairman welcomed Angela Stride, Ranjeet Panesar and Keith Hutchinson (who would join the meeting a little late). The Chairman asked the committee to give a brief resume of their involvement.

DE had been a resident for many years and joined the committee 4 years ago, he was just starting his third year as Chairman. Jessica Rettie had joined the Committee 1 year ago and been appointed Vice Chairman. Andy Sutch had served on the Committee for several years, one year as Chairman and for the past 3 years as Treasurer. He chairs the local sports committee, Sport Richmond. Justine Nagaur had joined the committee 1 year ago and had been instrumental in creating the FoPC blog and revising the FoPC website and to increasing awareness of the work of the Friends. Angela Howorth had joined the original Friends Group (as had Rikki Marks) to campaign for the protection of the Common & Fields. She re-joined when it was set up again in 2008.

New Committee member Ranjeet Panesar said she was originally from Birmingham and had move to the area in June 2011. With her husband she had opened the Café on the Common on September 10th 2011, she and her family love being here in East Sheen. Angela Stride had lived locally and had always known of the Friends of Palewell Common and was happy to help, her particular interests are photography and painting.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 21st April 2015: The Minutes were approved.

4. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

5. AGM: Discuss AGM held on 18th May 2015: AS had left the AGM as he disagreed with inappropriate political comments made by a Councillor, he has not taken any formal action. JR suggested we should warn politicians in future to avoid making political points. It was agreed that it was totally inappropriate.

Three members present had put their names forward for election to the committee, it was subsequently discovered that there is a full quota of elected members but that all three could be co-opted. Keith Hutchinson, Angela Stride and Ranjeet Panesar will therefore join the committee as co-opted members. It was noted that some committee members are

interested in standing down in the not too distant future which would enable the co-opted members to become fully elected committee members.

It was also noted that the record of the previous year's AGM should have been put to the meeting under 'Matters Arising' on the AGM Agenda. Justine Nagaur will put details of the AGM on the Friends website including the draft minutes for 2015.

Keith Hutchinson asked if politicians had been asked to state their policies on open spaces and parks. DE said he had written to candidates at the previous years' Council elections to ask about policies and attitude to Friends' groups. He had been pleased to receive positive responses from candidates.

10. Notice Board/Interpretation Table: This item was brought forward for discussion as Justine Nagaur would be leaving the meeting early.

DE said that the budget in Richmond has not been cut for parks so he had been told that Richmond would bear the cost. The plan and text of a nature walk was being discussed and DE had met the designer the previous week. Tasha Hunter has asked the designer to do a draft to be shared with the Friends.

The text: the top part will take DE's text and the second part will be standard Richmond Council. The map will also show a nature walk but without details on individual points of interest. If we have our own notice board we can, however, put up a map of our own with more information. The proposal is to have three boards, one at each of the main entrances. KH said it should be visible from the road but should not spoil the view. The Committee agree and support the proposal but need to agree locations. DE confirmed that currently the Council will pay for three boards. Any photographs used should, if possible, reflect something specific about Palewell Common. JN will provide photographs. Angela Stride commented that they need to be graffiti free. DE had been sent a photo of a Notice Board visible for users of the Common, the cost was £1,800 which would be split 50/50 between the Council and us, so £900 of our funds. The Committee agreed to contribute 50% of the cost.

6. Financial Update: Andy Sutch, Treasurer, presented the Accounts. The opening balance for the year 2015/16 was £2,510. Expenditure to date is £313.42 (which includes Insurance of £152.00). Forty two members have paid subscriptions, £420.00. The balance as at 17th June is £2,616.59 less £900.00 owed to Richmond upon Thames Council for the Information Board which leaves a balance of approximately £1,700. DE asked the committee if they agreed to contribute to the Information Board, the Committee agreed.

JN left the meeting at 7.15 p.m.

7. Membership Update: DK informed the committee that there were eighty two members last year of whom forty two had paid up for this year. She has a significant number of e-mail addresses so could send an e-mail, we need more members and volunteers. AS said he has a copy of the membership list and will check with the list he has from the recent Event.

DK will do the Membership Cards. AH asked if we could do Direct Debit or standing order for membership, other Friends' groups do this. AS will look into doing a standing order.

8. Sport Update: AS reported to the committee.

Cricket Square: There are fixtures set for Palewell Common and AS informed the committee that Sheen Common Cricket Club are very happy with the arrangements.

Tennis: This is going quite well. Mark Chase, the Coach, is busy, he is also working with Sheen Common tennis coaches and there is potential for them to work together. Will to Win's booking system is very difficult.

Keith Hutchinson said that we need ideas, there are strengths and weaknesses. AS will write a summary. The Borough is beginning to understand the localism agenda and villages atmosphere. Ishbel, Kate and Mark had had one discussion with Yvonne Kelleher about the possibility of preparing a bid for the courts at Palewell and Sheen Commons they could then possibly drop out from the Borough's tender. DE said it would be good to support the local coaches. JR suggested DE write a letter. AS will do a note on tennis. DE will prepare a draft.

JR commented that Keep Fit was a good use of the common.

Golf: there should be a report tomorrow, the golf course is poor and there is no coaching.

Boules is thriving. DE informed the Committee that a neighbour was arranging a wine club event, it would be a small event and not overtly commercial. It would start at lunchtime on 27th June.

9. The next volunteer date is 24th June: DE said that they would tidy up the Frog Pond and tidy up paths, it depends how many volunteers turn up.

10. Any Other Business: DE informed the committee that he had spoken to Tasha Hunter about the fenced area looking very rough she has asked him to draw up a suggested plan for design - sleeper benches and plants resilient to water. DE thinks if we propose something the Council may fund it. DE will try to do a plan with outline proposals. JR suggested we do an e-mail to members. DE will draft a possible note.

AS suggested that once we had a design we should look for contributions to the cost of benches, plants etc.

Angela Stride said that she would visit the play area for the children to see what if anything needs refreshing and refurbishing.

Suggested date for the next Committee meeting either 27th July or 3rd August.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

