

Friends of Palewell Common & Fields

Minutes of Committee Meeting 21st April 2015 at 6.30p.m. at 49 Hertford Avenue

Present: David Evans (Chairman), Andy Sutch, Jessica Rettie, Dhun Kenny, Bernard Adams, Justine Nagaur, John Hockley, Angela Howorth

1. Apologies for Absence: Rikki Marks, Jacqui Pattison

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th February 2015: The Minutes were approved.

3. Matters Arising: The Volunteer Day on 19th March had been successful. Gina Beresford of Glendale-Natures Gym to be invited to the AGM. Next possible date for Volunteers Day is 29th June. The Committee are meeting for supper at Pistachios on 23rd May at Pistachios. JR suggested inviting additional people, DE will ask Kate Maurici of Sheen Common Friends and her husband.

4. Financial Update: AS presented the Annual Accounts to the Committee. Subscriptions/donations to year ended 31st March 2015 were slightly up. Payments/costs were up so the end of year figure was slightly lower at £2,510 against £2,558 the previous year. The unused wood bought for the boules piste remains an asset. BA said that other sites in the borough may use it. JR suggested Mortlake Green was a possibility. DE proposed this be raised at the AGM and the Committee agreed that we should be ready to donate it for a good use. The Committee approved the Accounts and the Chairman signed them.

5. Membership Update: DK reported that three recent memberships had been carried forward to 2016. She has about 50 new membership cards available and needs to order some more. 100 cards would be £4.95, 250 cards would be £6.95. DE agreed 250 should be ordered. He asked DK and JN to look into and possibly design letter headings. AS gave them up to £25 budget. DK reported that there are currently eighty three members. DE will do an update email to the membership to cover both the 9th May event and the AGM.

6. Sport Update: AS reported on three things: Grass maintenance is now reasonable: Boules installation is to a good standard and contracting maintenance is better. AS is meeting Ishbeal Murray Deputy Director Environment at Richmond.

Tennis: AS attended a meeting (7.9.15) to turn round Officers decision to reject request planning consent for Richmond Gym Association the rejection was overturned. AS said that Will to Win want to charge higher fees (mentioned that Sheen Mount School had provided an excellent borough team entry to LYG). AS wanted action and agreed to write a set of independent proposals for tennis on Palewell Common & Sheen Common. Could be taken out of the contract. Yesterday there was a presentation by new Chief Executive of LTA and further discussion about a higher priority for Park tennis. LTA have 10 target boroughs, AS will call for this to be extended to all 33 - Richmond is top user. AS said that Will to Win take the bulk of the income. LTA would sponsor independent coaches. AS would prefer a joint relationship with Palewell and Sheen Common tennis working together.

Golf: AS said equally disturbing, they are delivering at Richmond Golf Club but not at Palewell.

Soccer: OK at moment - pitches slightly better.

Cricket: He hopes all is OK. AS is more confident than this time last year.

DE informed the Committee that he had told Sheen Common Friends that we were happy in principle to join with them in providing support for a new arrangement which would promote tennis better.

AS felt that the Council had probably taken contracting out too far. DE and AS will write to David Allister to support taking our local facilities out of the contract.

7. Spring Event 9th May: DE and JR outlined a framework for the event.

There will be a Membership Table, DK will be away that weekend so AS will stand in for her. There will be a raffle and an 'Antlers on the Deer' attraction for children.

JR will organise a Dog Show and suggested there should be three categories, Handsomest Male Dog, Prettiest Bitch, Waggiest Tail. Each category would last approximately 15/20 minutes. Suggested prizes a £25 voucher.

JN will do a poster. A pen/fenced suitable area should be put up to the side of the playground. AS will check fencing for this. The competition would be judged by Dog Town and the possibility of a guest judge was discussed.

BE confirmed that the formal opening of the Boules Piste will be at 11.00 a.m.

The Event would be from 10.30 a.m. until 12.30pm

10.30am-12.30pm	Membership Table & Raffle	AS & JN	Prizes to be arranged
	Antlers on the Deer	DE & AH	Sweets etc with parental approval.

11.30am-12.30pm	Dog Show	JR and JN will speak to the Vets and Pet Shop
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The café will provide refreshments.	JN will speak to them.
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8. Common Maintenance: Next Volunteer event to be confirmed.

RM

9. AGM 18th May 2015 7.30 pm to 9.00 p.m. All Saints Church Hall: DE confirmed that the Hall is booked.

DE confirmed that he is willing to stand as Chairman for another year but would hand over after that.

Other committee members, JR, Deputy Chairman, AS Treasurer, DK Membership Secretary and AH Secretary are all happy to stand for a further year.

Invite David Allister or a local Councillor to chair the election.

The Committee will seek to encourage new membership of the Committee.

It was agreed that 'Flyers' for the AGM be posted through local residents doors 7/10 days before the AGM and that Members should be e-mailed.

DE will invite David Allister to the AGM. Also The Ward Councillors, Gina Beresford, representatives of the Cricket Club, Mark Chase (Tennis), MESS, and SWLEN.

DE mentioned the approach from the wine club to hold an event in July. Following some discussion (including some email exchanges after the meeting) it was agreed that as a commercial concern they would be referred to the Council to seek formal approval.

10. Sheen Common - Proposed Friends' Group: An inaugural meeting had been chaired by AS in Sheen Common Pavilion in order to establish a Friends of Sheen Common Group. This had led to three sub groups, namely, Sports, Users (i.e. informal users of the Common) and a Woodland Group.

The intent was to establish a common voice but unfortunately the Chair of the Woodland sub-group had insisted on autonomy and consequently whilst Sports and Users are working together Woodland remains a splinter group.

11. Any Other Business:

DE said that formally Rikki has asked if we would be willing to provide some financial support for planting aquatic plants around the frog pond. It was agreed this would be appropriate and that we should offer a grant of up to £100 for plants for the pond area.

DE informed the Committee that another group have asked to use the Boules piste in July. JN suggested that there should be an online calendar for Boules reservations and she could do a website page.

The Committee also discussed possibly arranging a Boules tournament to attract younger players which could be held in the school holidays.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.