

Friends of Palewell Common & Fields

Minutes of a Meeting held on 30th October 2013 at 51 Hertford Avenue

Present: David Evans (Chairman), Andy Sutch, Dhun Kenny, Rikki Marks, Jacqui Pattison, Theresa Pa, Angela Howorth.

1. Apologies for Absence: Bernard Adams, Jessica Rettie

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 2nd October 2013 were approved.

3. Matters Arising: DE hoped that BA would be able to update the Committee on the Boules proposals at the next meeting.

4. Volunteers' Day: This took place on the 18th October and was, the Chairman said just satisfactory – but not as good as those with BCTV. Tina, who works for the new contractors, a branch of Glendale the golf contractor, led the volunteers. She had brought some daffodil bulbs which were planted along the hedgerow of the pitch & putt. The Chairman then suggested we show her the work that had been done previously, particularly the clearance of the woodland. The volunteers then cleared the area around the bluebells in the wood and cut back ivy and generally cleared the area including considerable amounts of rubbish from around the woodland pond. The group discussed with Tina what could be done in future and she said she intended to prepare a short programme of work which would pick up our suggestions. The new contractors are funded to do 4/5 volunteer days a year of approximately 3 hours each day. The committee agreed to try one further day with Glendale in the New Year before looking at alternative options. AS suggested that there were funds available to arrange other volunteer days, e.g. with BCTV, if the Committee thought this more suitable and productive.

5. Halloween Event for Children: This took place on 26th October and the day was a success, the Chairman felt that it raised awareness of the Friends of Palewell Common. It was very busy between 10.30 and 12.15 particularly when Kids Works finished. DK reported that forty one people had registered their e-mail addresses. AS said it highlighted the importance of engagement with the local community. TP proposed that the Friends organise a similar Christmas Event. The 7th December is a possible date to tie in with Kids Works. DE agreed that the Friends get more prominence by running events. An event at Easter was also discussed, perhaps an Easter egg hunt for children. This will be considered nearer the time with Pistaschio's.

6. Financial Update: DE suggested that we should send an e-mail to those providing their e-mail addresses in order to invite them to become members. DE asked DK to prepare this – with the core text very similar to the 'flyer' used at the Halloween event – and a list of the 41 new addresses. DE said he would be happy to send out the e-mail. (Secretary's note – this was sent out on 1st November.) AS informed the Committee that the current bank balance is £2,721.00, of which £450.00 is ring fenced for the Boules Group. DE had spent £87 on a gazebo and £12 on pumpkins, the balance is therefore £2622.00 (including the £450).

7. Update on Pitch & Putt & Sport Matters: AS assumed that Pitch & Putt issues will be resolved by 1st January and run by their own staff from the kiosk.

Other Sports: Tennis: Sheen Common and Carlisle Park have very good sites. Palewell Common has a strong coach in Mark Chase but poor facilities and little is done to promote it. DE asked if there is anything the Committee can do. AS showed the Committee a brochure that the Sheen Common tennis coach has prepared which is extremely good. AS asked that the Friends absolutely support all efforts to improve tennis at Palewell Common. JP asked if we could do something at the Christmas event to promote tennis. AS will speak to Mark and will speak to Sheen Sports who may give a tennis racket as a prize but it was agreed that perhaps the Easter event would be a more appropriate time to promote a tennis competition.

Cricket: AS met Richmond CC at Christs School, a licence is being drafted for Richmond Cricket Club to play on the pitches, the Club will work with the school and the community. Kieron of Sheen Common met AS recently to outline a proposal to play at Palewell Common on twenty Saturdays in the year for their 2nd and 3rd teams, they will work with Richmond Park Academy who will play mid-week. They may require a synthetic square on the edge of the square, AS is meeting with David Allister to discuss and agree the proposals. He informed the Committee that there would only be a single square at Palewell Common. The Committee were happy with the proposal.

8. Improvements to Members' Website: Tony Dowson had asked if we want to change to Wordpress, AS felt there was a strong case for us to improve the site. DE asked AH to contact Tony Dowson and set up an initial meeting for him and one other committee member to meet with Tony.

9. Proposed Christmas Event for Members – 14th December: A Children's Event for the 7th has now been proposed.

10. Any Other Business: DE reported to the Committee that John Blundell (who attended the Volunteer Day) has been in touch with Janet Bostock about preparing text for his photographs of fungi which could then be put on the website and the noticeboard. DE also informed the Committee that the Montessori School is unlikely to proceed with the later evening school but may lengthen its hours for daytime school. AH commented that the gate into the school had not had a self-closing 'catch' put on which had been suggested as a means of assuring child safety after the near accident some weeks ago.

Date of Next Meeting: A meeting in January to be arranged, possible dates are 20th or 22nd January.