

# Friends of Palewell Common & Fields

## Minutes of Meeting held on 6th March 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Andy Sutch (Chairman), Jacqui Pattison, David Evans, Dhun Kenny, Rikki Marks, Bernard Adams, Angela Howorth.

**Apologies for Absence:** Janet Bostock.

### 1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd January and Matters Arising:

The Minutes were approved.

**9. Boules Update:** BA reported that he had been investigating the costs of re-siting the boules pitches. He hoped that MESS would contribute £200, there was the possibility that U3A would contribute and AS thought that the Sports Council would also contribute funds i.e. a total contribution of £600 from outside. BA told the Committee that the stony foundations would be expensive £992, he said that we would need the surfacing and hedging to be done by the Council. DK said that Len Griffiths had suggested that U3A members would join. BA will speak to LG. AS said that we could possibly raise funds from other sources and he was hopeful that we would get the Council's support. RM asked whether planning permission was needed. AS said that we need the Council's support and approval as landlords. DE asked about the cost of hedging. AS said that we needed to raise £600 and FoPC would contribute up to £400 and possibly the Local Authority would contribute £500. DE asked from whom we needed consent in the Council. AS will write to David Alister. DK asked about the timber and wondered if it could come from timber in the Park. BA will raise this with Des Smith. RM mentioned saplings and wondered if they could be used to create the hedging.

**3. Financial Update:** DE confirmed that the existing funds were £1,700 and we could therefore contribute up to £400 for the Boules pitches. There is no change from the previous month.

**10. Cricket Update:** AS reported that there had been a very good meeting at Richmond Park Academy and that they were keen to be involved with cricket at Palewell Common, they are keen that there should be a synthetic strip but they have limited resources. At present the numbers of children playing were small but they were keen to grow these numbers. The key issue was where to put a synthetic pitch and the current pitch also needs work doing to it. The costs of providing a synthetic square and restoring/rebuilding the current pitch would be c £6,000, AS suggested that The Taveners might pay for this.

AS informed the committee that Christs School in Richmond, which has 600 pupils and is growing, were building new changing rooms at the school and it was very likely that Richmond Cricket Club would elect to use their pitches as they were closer. The 6th form sites have to be ready by 1st September 2014.

**11. Richmond Park Academy - Banner:** AS informed the Committee that The Chairman of the Board of Governors of Richmond Park Academy had requested permission to put up a banner on the Pavilion to promote the opening of the new 6th Form. AS asked that the Committee approve

this request and that the Banner would be treated as a special case and would be for a restricted period of perhaps two weeks. The Committee approved the request.

BA left the meeting.

**5. Meetings with new Palewell Contractors:** AS had still not met with Continental Landscapes the new Contractors replacing Veolia, the Veolia contract is valid until 31st March 2013. DK had spoken to Janusch, since Veolia had lost the contract 75% of his time was spent on the Pitch & Putt and 25% on the Common. AS said that Continental have a good reputation. The management of the golf course had apparently not yet been announced and it was not clear who has responsibility for the management and maintenance of the course. Legal issue of maintenance. AS confirmed that he had had absolute assurance that the golf will continue. AS will report back on golf.

AS informed the committee that 'Will to Win' had won the tennis contract for the borough. They currently run tennis for the Royal Parks, Regents Park, Hyde Park and also for Hounslow, Wandsworth and now Richmond. He had not been informed of prices for coaching etc., he understood that one of the current Richmond coaches has taken a job with the new contractor. AS has three worries/concerns: prices will go up: coaching costs will be higher: and capital investment may not be made.

AS was to meet a representative of Will to Win the following week. They have a good financial deal but development is not included. AS will write formally to Richmond Council to ask about charging policy.

**4. Beverley Brook and future plans: Update on Meeting held on 13.01.13.** DE had attended the meeting on behalf of the FoPC, and he reported that the meeting which included Thames 21, the Wandle Trust and the Environment Agency had been very interesting.

There were two thrusts to the meeting: 1) it was a good idea to get an inventory of all proposals on Beverley Brook, the main funding has disappeared but other funding will come up. Once the inventory was created it was proposed that a public meeting should be held, even without any committed funding and all interested parties invited e.g. The Wandle and FoPC.

2) Royal Parks: some opportunity to progress the work in Richmond Park, namely:

i) logs could be used to help the flow of Beverley Brook and ii) they could dig out concrete culverts, the cost would be about £150,000.

DE asked the Environment Agency about the Palewell Common end of the brook and they confirmed that no work would take place at that end because of the habitat of bats.

They will not allow any risk of flooding.

DE said that we were interested in water quality. The Environment Agency is interested in bio-diversity. DE had informed the meeting that we would be interested in being involved in the future.

**7. Woodland Planting and Volunteer Days:** RM informed the Committee that there had been a successful BTCV visit that day and a reasonable amount of clearing of the woodland had been achieved. There had not been as many local volunteers as she had hoped but those who had turned up had achieved a good outcome. Simon of BTCV was not sure whether they will be taken on for future contract with Richmond Council. AS said there was to be a meeting of Richmond Voluntary Services. DE thanked RM for arranging today's work.

**8. Membership:** DK is hoping that those who renewed last year will renew again.

**6. A.G.M.** The proposed date is 16th May 2013.

AS would like to invite the following people to attend:

The main contractors and the Tennis and Golf contractors.

David Allister from Richmond Council.

The leader of the Council, Councillor Lord True and the ward Councillors.

BTCV

Existing members

AS hoped that the plans for the operation of tennis and golf would attract people to the meeting.

AS: will draft a letter to all members and the committee will deliver it by hand by 1st May.

**12. Any Other Business:** The change of nursery planning application: AS consulted the committee who agreed that the request to increase the daytime number of children attending the nursery from 50 to 60 did not cause a problem. The other planning application was a very different matter.

DK informed the Committee that an FoPC member, who had helped with woodland clearing today, had said he was keen to ensure that the paths round the old pond were kept free of weeds and asked if he might be allowed to use weed killer. AS said he would discuss this with the Parks Department and see what was permitted and inform the member. \*

The Meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

\* We now know that LBRuT will apply the chemicals and we can weed.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 24th April, 2013.