

## **Friends of Palewell Common & Fields**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on 11th July 2012 at 7.00 p.m. in the Club Room**

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

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Francis Rowland and Bernard Adams.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 28th May:** The Minutes were approved.

**3. Treasurer's report and draft budget:** David Evans said that he had not yet heard from NatWest as to whether he is a signature on the account, he will go into the Bank to sort this out. He asked that we formally record the Friends' thanks for the £150.00 donation we had received from the Thornton Road street party. DK had received two more subscriptions. DE said that there were two more things to look into: i) a cheque for £5.25 had not gone through, AS said that this could be the additional payment for hiring the hall for the extra hour for the AGM. ii) DE said that he was not aware of any outstanding catering invoices. It was agreed that we check with Ranjeet for any outstanding payments which might be due for the AGM and for the earlier Friends' event. AH will do this when she goes to settle up with Ranjeet tomorrow.

DE asked Rikki Marks if she had any figures for possible expenditure on maintenance of the Common. RM said that she was meeting Janet Bostock to go round the common to check the trees and other work required and, together with Simon of BTCV, would work out a year's plan and relative costs.

It was agreed that a contingency sum of £70.00 be added to the budget.

**4. Membership update:** Dhun Kenny reported that she had chased those who have not renewed, she was hoping for a response. *She commented that LG and Tony Dowson had not renewed.*

**5. Future Relationship with Richmond Council:** AS said that he had had two long sessions with Richmond Council, which included discussions about tennis and golf. The Local Authority had outlined the frame work which once in writing was nothing like as flexible as had been hoped for, for tennis they want a single contracted provider. LBRuT insist on all final decisions over the determination of the contracts for management of Palewell but had included a requirement that all contractors MUST consult FoPC BERORE implementation of the contracts on 1st April 2013.

AS confirmed that The Friends are not in a position in this round to bid for site management contracts. The contracts will probably be awarded around September and the contracts would be for three years. Some of the sports contracts may be awarded later.

## 6. Update on developments on the Common:

- **Tennis:** AS had had a meeting with the tennis coaches who asked us to support their bid to take on the tennis in the borough. AS had written a letter saying we understood the Local Authority wanting to have all the tennis run by one provider but that we supported the five existing coaches in the borough taking on the eight key sites with LTA accreditation .
- **Cricket:** AS said that this was much more problematic. He had had several discussions with Richmond Cricket Club. The Local Authority wants to focus on Sheen Common and make improvements. The Council is good at attracting funds to support cricket development. They want to look at junior development at Sheen and further local use. AS suggested that it would be sensible to encourage cricket and football to work together and have meetings to plan fixtures, particularly those in early May and September. All the committee would welcome the establishment of regular weekly cricket matches on Palewell Common. There was discussion about possibly having two cricket pitches at Palewell and two teams playing there every week, the committee were not in favour as this would make it difficult for the local community to have the use of the common. The Committee favoured a link between Sheen Common and Palewell Common to develop Palewell as Sheen Common Cricket Club's second ground. AH said that currently Sheen Cricket Club use a ground in Ham for some of their teams and might be interested if the pitch at Palewell Common could be greatly improved. To be followed up.
- AS commented that there is some tension between Sheen Lions and Kids Works. He informed the committee that Rosslyn Park minis are moving to the ground at Vine Road.
- **Nursery Planning Application:** The Planning Committee met on 5th July, there were twenty sets of comments - some quite lengthy. In general people living further away from the common were in favour. AS has spoken to the Planning Officer the option of changing the closing time from 8.00pm to 6.00 pm was being discussed stopping at 6.00 pm might ameliorate some criticism. Three people had made comments on the safety issue. The 22nd August is the date to check the progress of planning application.
- **Club Room damp:** AS informed the committee that this is caused by an outside problem, namely the level of the paving outside the door which is too high, there is no drainage therefore the water seeps under the door and has caused quite severe damage already. The Council are negotiating with the contractors to alter the level of the paving and to repair the damage. JP pointed out the need for a handle with a latch for the door as at present the only way to prevent the door opening when the room is in use is to lock the door which was not sensible. Other problems noted by the committee were: the broken drain cover near the kiosk which had been damaged by a car driving over it and the flooding of the area near the entrance to the café, this is a severe drainage problem. DK mentioned the problem of fly tipping which we should be aware of.

- **Community safety:** AS said that in the USA there is an external plaque on the premises which act as a Safe Haven and proposed following this up with Pistaschios. RM raised the possible requirement of CRB checks, she also suggested that the Friends speak to the local police about this.

**7. BTCV dates 2012/13:** RM said that when she has had the meeting to discuss what is needed to be done on the Common she will get possible dates from Simon for late September for the next BTCV day. She will also have a clearer idea of how many days will be needed to complete the necessary work this year and will agree possible future dates with Simon.

AS mentioned the Friends of London Parks Group, their AGM clashed with ours but they have a November meeting, they consist of around eighty groups in and around London who work to protect the open spaces. AS suggested we consider having a formal link with this charity. He is concerned at the forecast on Local Authority spending and that costs will rise steeply. AS also mentioned that 12th July is London Sparrow Count day, the website is [www.rspb.org.uk/sparrowcount](http://www.rspb.org.uk/sparrowcount).

**8. Join in Weekend 18th/19th August:** AS said that he had secured some help with funding the day. Three basketball nets will be funded for under 11 year olds to use as a supervised teaching area. There will be spare sets of boules. There was discussion of possibly having a golf net. There would be a prize for the boules competition.

The Committee agreed to focus on one day, Sunday 19th August. The possibility of a Park Walk was discussed, Tasha Hunter had organised a very successful one two years ago.

A possible timetable was outlined:

Boules:	11 - 4
Cricket:	2 - 4
Golf:	all day
Volleyball	2 - 4
Basketball	11 - 4 coaching 2 - 4
Walk in the Wood	p.m.

The Committee would erect a gazebo and provide some refreshments for the Friends, possibly Pimms for adults and soft drinks (lemonade) for children, 2 - 4 p.m. was suggested. A budget of £50.00 was proposed. DE agreed to sort out the refreshments.

The event would need to be publicised and it was suggested that we prepare posters and display them in Pistaschios, the notice board on the Common, the sport's shop and other local shops and put a notice on the website. The possibility of a bouncy castle was raised, to be checked with Ranjeet. AS has cleared this event with Richmond Borough Council.

**9. Playground:** The Committee confirmed that they were not in favour of a sandpit in the playground mainly because of the potential problems caused by foxes and other wildlife.

**10. Any Other Business:** The Committee felt that the Club Room needed to be sorted out so that it was more usable by visiting sports teams.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 14th August 2012 at 7.00 pm, to discuss the event on Sunday 19th August.

## Appendix A

### FoPC Draft Budget 2012

		<b>Debit</b>	<b>Credit</b>
<i>Income</i>			
Subscriptions	already received		490
	to be included		30
Donations received			190
Other income			0
<i>Expenditure</i>			
BTCV	4 days @ £100	-400	
AGM	Hall & hospitality	-100	
Social Event	August	-50	
Printing		-100	
Contingency		-60	
Total		-710	710

