

Friends of Palewell Common & Fields

Minutes of Meeting held on 14th March 2012 at 6.30 p.m. in the Club Room

Present: Francis Rowland (Chairman), Andy Sutch, Dhun Kenny, Rikki Marks, Bernard Adams, Angela Howorth. In attendance: Ranjeet Panesar.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Jacqui Pattison, Robin Laidlaw, Len Griffiths
- 2. The Minutes of the Meeting on 22nd February 2012:** were approved

3. Pistachios: The Chairman welcomed Ranjeet Panesar, who runs Pistachios Café, to the meeting. Ranjeet said that the winter had been a hard period but things were considerably better now. With Easter coming up they were planning various events in the future, such as an Easter egg hunt for children. Ranjeet will be drafting posters to highlight these events and they will be listed on a Pistachios page on our web site. She has had offers of help and support from volunteers which is encouraging. She mentioned that Krispy Kreme doughnuts were offering special promotions for events and Pistachios plan to have a special offer of coffee and doughnut for around £2. and prizes for children returning 'numbered eggs' (plastic eggs would be used).

Pistachios will also consider an event linked to the Jubilee weekend and other events for the summer and Olympics. **BA** commented that there will be several street parties over the Jubilee weekend and these would most probably be in the afternoon, (the Council would be able to provide a list). If Pistachios are to do something on the day then morning or lunch time might be more sensible.

FR mentioned discussions that he and **RL** had had with Kayeligh and also Ranjeet and Anthony which aim at providing more information, making improvements to the club room and making this an active part of the café.

BA will establish a relationship with the café for the boules teams. Ranjeet said that they would be very happy to provide teas for any visiting cricket teams, once the pitch has been prepared and matches arranged visiting teams would have the use of the Club Room. There will be a link to the website to encourage people to use the facilities. Ranjeet commented that after school is a busy time and there are now some regular customers and underlying business.

FR informed the Committee that Tower House School are in discussion with the Council about holding their Sports Day on the Common and this could bring considerable business to the café. **FR** also commented that the use of Richmond Park as part of the course for the Olympic Games cycle race would bring considerable numbers to the area and potentially bring people to Palewell Common. Some discussion ensued about the provision of more outside tables and benches for the use of the café and the public, some Committee members were not in favour of this, no formal proposal or decision was made.

The Chairman thanked Ranjeet for attending the meeting and for her co-operation and help, she left the meeting.

4. Attracting new members & Committee: The committee are planning to invite a number of local people to a coffee tasting, wine and cheese evening on March 28th, the primary purpose being to approach potential new Committee members. A personal invitation to a number of local people will be delivered in the next week or so. Pistachios will kindly provide the coffee and the food (the Friends will pay for the food) and the Friends will provide the wine. **BA** undertook to order the wine and glasses on behalf of the Friends.

5. Committee changes and resignations: **FR** expressed his and the Committee's regret that, due to increasing business commitments, Robin Laidlaw will not be standing for re-election. The Committee thanked him for the huge contribution he has made to the Friends over the past five years, he will be greatly missed.

The Committee had been asked to draw up a list of people to approach to stand as possible Committee members. These people would be invited to the evening event planned for the 28th March, it was hoped that new local residents could be recruited to join the Committee and replace **FR** and **RL**. **BA** confirmed that two of his neighbours would be attending on the 28th and **AS** said that he may have two people interested. Personal invitations will be delivered. There are possibly 6/8 people interested. **BA** will set up the Club Room for the evening of the 28th March. **FR** will provide survey forms for guests to complete at the event. **BA** asked if **FR** would be giving a talk to explain what the Friends have been doing. After discussion it was agreed that this would make the event too formal and people will be arriving at different times so difficult to do. The Committee members should 'sell' the roles and try to get people to sign up to join the Committee and other support activities.

FR also said that we need help to administer the website. It was noted that the website needs changing to show the change in membership fees.

6. AGM. Finalise invitation: **RL** had sent Committee members a draft Notice of the AGM to be held on 24th April 2012, together with a Letter to the Friends which would be on the reverse of the AGM notice. The Notice was approved. The Committee approved the wording of the letter however it was agreed that the heading of the letter should be altered and would come only from Friends of Palewell Common and Fields and not jointly from Pistachios as on the draft.

FR outlined the Agenda for the AGM.

Welcome & Open	Councillor Lord True
Annual Report	FR
Accounts	AS (Ken Cook will do the audit)
Membership	DK
Committee stand for election	Councillor Lord True
LBRuT Parks' Strategy	David Allister
Sports facilities & plans	AS
2012/13 Activities/Plans	FR/RL
A.O.B.	

The Committee agreed that everyone attending the AGM would be invited to stay on for an informal reception following the Meeting.

7. Olympic Sculpture: **FR** had been contacted by Tasha Hunter to inform us that there is a sculptor who is offering to carve a wooden sculpture in various parks for the Olympics. We discussed the possibility of using the stump of the tree by the nursery school or possibly using part of the fallen tree currently lying on the triangle. **FR** will contact the sculptor and **DK** agreed to talk to Ken O'Neill as this is the sort of thing that he might like to help with.

8. Planting & other improvements: **RL** had had a meeting with Des Smith on 12th March to discuss planting and other improvements to be made on the Common and had provided the Committee with a summary of these discussions. The proposed garden at the corner of the nursery would be developed using a combination of BTCV and Council resources and with help from the Friends. It was noted that a drought control order may cause problems with planting.

UK Networks or Oakland Builders need to complete some tarmac repair work asap

We have discussed creating a small barrier outside the kiosk to protect the beds and plants. Janusz has agreed to supply materials and do the work and FoPC will pay for the materials (maximum of £100)..

The Triangle: the fallen tree needs to be removed and the path around the old pond needs to be cleaned up; a project the Friends could possibly undertake. Later in the year the centre needs to be tidied up. **FR** proposed possibly planting a wild flower garden, **RM** favoured the area being tidied up but left as an area for spring daffodils and not further planting. **RM** will speak to Simon Hawkins of BTCV to get a date for this work to get started.

9. Cricket: **AS** said that Des Smith is happy for cricket to start in April but it was noted that the quality of the wicket needs improving. **AS** said that remedial work could be carried out this summer and the Sports Council might help.

It was noted that some of the Keep Fit classes were using the cricket square for their classes. The square needs to be roped off to protect it. **FR** suggested placing metal holders below grass level so that wooden stakes could go into them without damaging the grass surface, the ropes could then be attached to the poles. Two signs stating 'Cricket Square - Keep Off' could then be displayed. **AS** will speak to Hampton Cricket Club about this.

FR informed the committee that **RL** is trying to get hold of a heavy roller for the cricket square.

The possibility of developing a Palewell Cricket team was noted. **AH** suggested liaising with Sheen Common Cricket Club who currently use extra pitches the other side of Ham Common.

10. Boules Pistes: **BA** is not convinced that we need the piste surfaces completely re-surfaced, but they do need a top dressing, he will speak to Des about this. He will also speak to Michael Powell, who built the pistes, about the materials needed to dress the pistes..

11. Pond Project: RM confirmed that the charity that was looking at restoring ponds were not interested in the small ponds in the woods and we do not wish to create a pond on the triangle. This subject is now closed.

12. Thames 21 & Beverley Brook project: The Committee discussed the e-mail David Allister had sent to FR on the 9th March proposing a significant project for Beverley Brook at Palewell Common. The Committee were interested to consider the proposed improvements/changes but were concerned about the safety implications if fencing was removed, the banks are very steep in places. FR will contact Tasha Hunter Richmond's Ecology Officer.

13. MOU - Progress Report: AS informed the Committee that he had spoken to Colin Sinclair and others involved, they had no objection to the concept of agreeing an MOU. It would be non-person specific i.e. it would cover Woodland, Boules etc. He doubted that it would be signed by the time of the AGM but we could inform the meeting of the probable final outcome.

14. Grants & Funding: FR told the Committee that it is clear that any work or improvements to the common will have to be funded by The Friends so we need to prioritise our resources and work closely with BTCV. AS said that he will look into possible sources of funding and will speak to a) Waitrose and b) check possible Lottery funding. FR said we need funds for woodland clearance which could be as much as £5,000 to £10,000, we should therefore try to get a grant as the Council is unlikely to be able to fund it.

15. Communication Plan with Members: The Committee agreed that a copy of the AGM notice should be sent to all Members, together with an invitation to renew their membership. DK said that e-mail does not work and proposed that we should do a leaflet drop. The Committee agreed. All members will therefore receive, hand delivered or by post, a Notice of the AGM, with the Letter from FR, together with a membership renewal slip and a reply envelope addressed to DK the Membership Secretary.

16. Any Other Business: Dog Walkers: The Committee discussed the Dog Control Orders which The Council propose implementing whereby it will be an offence for a person to take more than 4 dogs onto land to which the Order applies. The Committee felt that the Friends of Palewell Common & Fields should inform the Council that they agree with this Order.

Date of Next Meeting: 19th April, 2012 in the Club Room.

The Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.