

Friends of Palewell Common & Fields

Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd February 2012 at 63 Vicarage Road

Present: Francis Rowland (Chairman), Jacqui Pattison, Robin Laidlaw, Andy Sutch, Rikki Marks, Bernard Adams, Angela Howorth.

1. Apologies for Absence: Dhun Kenny

2. The Minutes of the Meeting on 12th December 2011 were approved.

4. Treasurer's Report: AS reported that the balance at the end of January was £1,278.92. He had just written a cheque for £15.75p to Mortlake PCC for the hire of All Saints Church Hall for the AGM and the current balance is £1,263.17p.

3. Update on proposed changes to Park Management & operations and role of FoPC:

AS proposed that the Committee develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council which would mean that FoPC is involved and has an influence on future plans.

AS indicated that the Council agrees in principle and that we should aim for an MOU based on the one that the Council has with Barn Elms Sports Trust which is favoured as the Council thinks highly of this group. The key stage will be over the next two months.

AS said it was important to get an MOU

- 1) to preserve progress,
- 2) demonstrate that the local community has an interest
- 3) 80/100 members is a genuine voice.

FR agreed that if we have a positive approach it could help the overall process, he will speak to David Allister.

AH asked what liabilities the Friends would take on? AS replied that we would use our position to influence decisions we would not take on responsibilities.

FR explained that David Allister has said that he expects us (The Friends) to be on the selection board and that a member of the Committee would be involved in the planning and selection processes. The Maintenance and Management of Parks depends how the Council develops its strategy. FR commented that it could take some time, economy of scale has dictated what happens in each department. The Council is aiming for more consistency.

RM asked what the Committee's thoughts were on separating the various different aspects of the Common & Fields? FR expressed his belief that maintenance for the Common will be awarded to one operator. AS commented that specific contracts, for example tennis, could be awarded to a contractor covering several sites in the borough.

RM raised the issue of advertising now happening on the tennis courts, FR said several people had complained about this and **he will write to the Council.**

FR believes that we will have a better idea of progress made in May/June not as originally hoped in this 1st quarter of the year.

AS recommended that we try to put a MOU in place by April.

5. Committee Roles & Responsibilities:

FR informed the Committee that, for personal reasons, he would be stepping down as Chairman after the AGM and invited nominations for a successor. **BA** voiced his regret that the Chairman was stepping down and thanked him for all that he had done for the Friends of Palewell Common and Fields over the past three years. The Committee unanimously added their thanks.

After discussion the Committee agreed that now would be a good opportunity to invite additional local residents to join the Committee and this could be combined with appointing a new Chairman. A number of people had expressed an interest in getting involved with The Friends and **FR** proposed that we prepare a 'flyer' saying that we were actively seeking new committee members and a new Chairman and invite those people to a meeting to discuss the possibility of them joining the Committee. **BA** said that this would have to be done quickly. After discussion it was proposed that **we try to arrange a meeting/event for 28th March.**

BA also suggested that committee members might be able to suggest additional local people who might be interested in joining. **RL** said motivation is essential, the changes within the Council for the management of open spaces make it essential to have people who want to be involved.

6. Woodland management & other maintenance e.g. ponds:

JP informed the committee that they were waiting for dates from Simon Hawkins of BTCV so that they could arrange for volunteers to help with maintenance work. **RM** said considerable cutting back and clearance was needed. **JP** pointed out that some trees near the tennis courts were in need of pollarding.

RM pointed out that the fallen tree in the triangle should be removed and **FR** thought the path should be cleared, **RM** commented that the grass on the triangle used to be cut monthly. The Friends could possibly tidy up the triangle once the daffodils were over. **RL** had spoken to Des Smith about the constant stream of water on the triangle as yet they cannot find the source of the leakage.

FR mentioned that the corner by the nursery school, where a tree had been cut down, was in need of attention. **RL** suggested putting sleepers around the edge and suggested that the tree stump could perhaps be made into a suitable base for a plaque commemorating the reopening of the pavilion. It was suggested that Chrissy Proctor might be able to advise on suitable planting of the small area around the tree. **FR** asked **JP and RM to arrange with the Council for the planting of this area.**

7. AGM: Plan Speakers and Agenda:

RL confirmed that All Saints Church Hall is booked for the 24th April 2012.

FR suggested that people attending should be invited to stay for a glass of wine/soft drink, the Committee agreed. It was agreed that Aysin Djemil and Kaylee Nicholls (the new area manager of Pistaschios) should be invited to the AGM. Inviting a guest speaker at the AGM was discussed and **AS** suggested inviting somebody like Vinny Codrington, who has a high profile with Middlesex Cricket Club, this would have the added benefit of encouraging cricket to be played more seriously on Palewell Common.

The timetable for the AGM needs to be agreed and an invitation prepared and distributed. It was suggested that it be two sided with the details of the AGM on the front page and an invitation to join the Committee on the second page. This should be distributed at the end of March, the week of the 26th March being considered a suitable date as it is almost two weeks before the Easter holiday.

8. Future Communications plan with Members: To be discussed

9. Pistachios/Club Room: update on feedback or any changes: **FR** and **RL** are meeting with Aysin and Kayleigh on Friday 24th February and will update the Committee at the next meeting.

10. Tennis Courts: this problem has been resolved.

11. Any Other Business: **BA** commented that the Boules pitch surface had deteriorated, Des Smith will replace it for £80.00, he also commented that it needs raking. **RL** queried whether we should invest in covers for the piste as it could be a cheaper option. To be considered.

Date of Next Meeting: 14th March, 2012 at 6.30 p.m. in the Club Room.