

# Friends of Palewell Common & Fields

## Minutes of Meeting held on 24th April at 6.30 p.m. in the Club Room

**1. Apologies for absence:** Rikki Marks, Bernard Adams and Janet Bostock

**2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th March & Matters Arising:** The Minutes were approved. **Matters Arising:** DE informed the Committee that the situation with Beverley Brook was 'status quo'. AS confirmed that there were no arrangements for woodland planting at present.

**3. Financial Update:** DE presented the accounts for the Financial Year to 31st March 2013. He informed the Committee that financially it had been a good year with a surplus of £687 there had been a good level of donations and less expenditure. DE will ask Kenneth Cook to do the formal report of the accounts and will get it updated and signed to present at the AGM. DE produced two cheques which Bernard Adams had received, £250 from U3A and £200 from MESS as donations towards the development of the Boules Piste. FoPC will contribute up to £400, £992.00 is the target figure but costs depend on the terrain and the fencing. The Committee need BA to confirm exact costs. AS said he had a further possible source of funding. This would be an item on the Agenda at the AGM. DK informed the committee that membership had fallen from 76 members in 2011/12 to 63 in 2012/13.

**4. New Contractors:** AS had met Will to Win and raised points about coaching and sports development. The charges are to be £6 per hour (£4 off peak) with as yet unspecified free times. The fee for lessons has gone up from £25 to £35. Will to Win might give FoPC members a free swipe card to enable them to book on line. AS expressed concern that Will to Win were undoubtedly more expensive and possibly less easy to access.

With regard to the Golf Course, AS believed that there are two contract issues:

1) The existing contractor claims a right of first refusal to renew and the person who won the new contract has yet to be given access to operate the course.

2) There is a dispute over the maintenance contract. AS said he believed that Continental Landscapes will do a good job if the dispute is resolved. AS is going to an event at Carlisle Park on Saturday and will broach the subject with the Mayor.

AS is meeting with Councillor Lord True and Gillian Norton, Chief Executive of LBRuT, on Friday about a range of factors.

AS confirmed that David Allister, Head of Parks Richmond Council, and Will to Win will come to the AGM. It was agreed that we invite Etienne, the Golf Pro to the AGM.

**5. AGM:** AS has signed personal letters to 32 'local people' and these will be delivered by the committee immediately. All existing members will get the same letter by the Bank Holiday weekend at the latest. DK would like to target other local residents with a 'flyer', it was agreed that this should be confined to the Palewell Common side of the Upper Richmond Road. AS signed the Agreement for the booking of All Saints Church Hall and DE provided a cheque for the hire of the hall.

The Committee agreed that the meeting would start at 7.00 p.m. and agreed the following Agenda:

**Welcome & Open Meeting:** AS will give a brief update on the past year and the situation regarding the awarding of contracts.

**Membership:** DK will give a brief summary of current membership.

**Election of the Committee:** JP will speak to the Vicar and see if he would conduct the election.

AS is standing down as chairman because of other major commitments, after discussion it was proposed that, for the forthcoming year, AS and DE would swap roles, DE standing as Chairman and AS as Treasurer. JP will stand as Deputy Chairman, DK Membership Secretary, AH Secretary.

**Client & Contractor Presentation:** AS confirmed that David Allister will update the meeting and then invite the confirmed contractors to make presentations.

**Sports Facilities & Plans:** AS will update the meeting on current plans and developments with particular regard to cricket. BA will speak about Boules.

**2013/14 Activities & Plans:** JP will update the meeting.

**Q and A and Closing Remarks:** AS.

The Committee agreed that there would be a drinks reception after the close of the AGM. DE undertook to be responsible for this. JP left the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

**6. Richmond Park Academy Banner theft:** The banner which had been displayed for a week disappeared, it is believed to have been targeted vandalism as it was hung on very strong metal pins which would have been very difficult to cut through, the banner has not been found. There was also concern about an incident on the golf course which Etienne the Golf Pro had sorted out. The Committee commented that they had not seen members of the Community Police in the area of Palewell Common for some time, it was agreed that this should be followed up. It was also agreed that the Community Police be invited to the AGM and be available to answer any questions from members present.

**7. Sport Update:** DE suggested that we inform the members attending the AGM that we plan to do a survey of the cricket pitch to look at ways of improving the cricket square and possibly adding a synthetic strip, there is uncertainty as to whether Richmond Cricket Club will be interested in using the cricket pitch at Palewell as they have other options, AS thought that the Ladies team might be interested. If a formal consultation was required by Richmond Council it would mean the pitch would not be available for use this season.

The Committee agreed that the possible move of the Boules pitch should be raised at the AGM as the committee were keen to have residents views, a survey of members was suggested, DE suggested using 'survey monkey'.

**8. Any Other Business:** Contact with the Community Police was again referred to and AS will follow this up. It was agreed that Simon of BTCV would be invited to the AGM.

The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

