

Friends of Palewell Common & Fields

Minutes of a Meeting held on 27th July 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at 53 Enmore Gardens

Present: Francis Rowland (Chairman), Jacqui Pattison (Deputy Chair), Robin Laidlaw, Andy Sutch, Rikki Marks, Dhun Kenny, Angela Howorth. In attendance Councillor Nicola Urquhart

1. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Urquhart. He proposed that we start with Item 4 on the Agenda as Councillor Urquhart had kindly attended the meeting to discuss this matter.

4.1 Pavillion:

RL reported on a meeting with the Council to try to review proposals for the Pavilion. We tried to negotiate a compromise, proposing to split the building so that the clubroom was retained as community space. David Sharp explained that this was not practical and that a new fire wall from floor to roof was the best way of dividing the property. RL presented the drawings prepared by Victoria Congdon for discussion in the meeting. It was agreed that a public space (e.g. club room) would be provided, ideally this would be adjacent to the café, and an extension would be proposed for the café to allow for this room.

Councillor Urquhart asked if the plans that we had presented were being used by the Council? RL said that Graham Beattie and David Sharp were very positive about our plans but have instructed the consultants (Bailey Garner) to draw up new plans based on the revised brief.

FR felt that the Council were working in the right direction and that the discussion had been very constructive. There is nothing more we can do until revised plans have been received and we have a further meeting of planning.

There was some discussion about the use of the site. Rikki M felt the café should close at dusk. The Committee agreed that late night activities should not be encouraged. It was confirmed that the operating licence will designate the scope of activities and opening times.

The issue of residential property versus play school/nursery was raised as there have been 4/5 interested parties. Andy S confirmed that the priority is to get the funds required to do the alterations and that if this was by selling half for residential use, then we should not interfere with this. It was suggested that the Council might provide a planning application to allow for change of use from residential to playschool/nursery, if someone would wish to purchase it for this purpose. It was suggested that this was unlikely to get through; a similar request in Teddington was kicked into touch.

There will be a two week consultation period in September where these issues are likely to be raised.

The Committee discussed their role in the planning process and agreed that our aim is to get the pavilion back into use and provide a facility for the community. While we will help to develop the plans and represent the input that we have received from the community, we should not take a position on different proposals or objections.

FR explained that the Council had presented a detailed plan which indicates that the new pavilion should be opened by the end of 2010. There will be a public meeting at the end of September or early October for revised plans and drawings to be presented and feedback solicited. Detailed plans for the public space will be submitted to the Council in January/February 2010 and the sale of the residential property will be put to the Council in 4Q09 with sale by auction in 1Q2010.

Jacqui P recommended that we put the key dates on the website which FR will do.

Councillor Urquhart asked if the clubroom will be available to The Friends and other community users. It was suggested that the lease should encourage availability of the room (at low cost) and, ideally, some kitchen facilities should be available for people using this room.

Graham Beattie is a consultant and has been brought in to make the plan happen and we have been encouraged with the progress since his arrival.

Councillor Nicola Urquhart left the meeting and the committee thanked her for her time and continuing support.

It was agreed that a note should be drafted to go on the website and that the Friends should be sent an e-mail.

4.2 Progress Report

a) Membership DK will circulate the latest list, now over 80, the Activity Day and generated interest. As agreed at the AGM there is no charge for this year and the next charge will be August 2010. It was agreed that we have a membership drive in September during the planning consultation period. It was noted that Robin has had a Friends banner made.

b) Banking & Accounts. AS The Bank Balance as at 27.07.09 was £825.39, plus £20 petty cash and a further £25 tonight. Possible future expenditure: a replacement bench - £300/400 and further flower beds. It was noted that Sheen Common have a bench given 'in memory' of a local resident, FR will write to John Holroyd to raise this as a possibility. RL raised the possibility of a plaque 'to the friends' to be put on the café. FR has spoken to Gaye Galvin to enquire about estimates for raised beds. Rikki commented that they were looking extremely nice.

c) Safety & Security. Robin had had a meeting with the Safer Neighbourhood Team. They wanted to know that everything was running to plan - security seems to have improved, not many problems. Those houses bordering the common who do have some security problems should be encouraged to plant Pyracantha or Rambling Rector roses along their boundary fences. They also get information about improving security from the SNT.

d) Activity Day. The soft ball pitches were used and much enjoyed, and the volleyball was very busy - the final is coming back to Palewell Common in August. (The Mortlake with East Sheen Society stand was disappointing.) It was noted that Free tennis will not be available at Palewell Common as it is one of four sites contracted out (This has subsequently been confirmed by David Allister).

e) Play Week. Robin confirmed that Mark had moved his tennis kit from the Pavillion, the Council probably need to provide alternative space for him for the future. FR asked Robin to write to Gaye Galvin and thank her for making the Pavilion room available.

It was noted that Palewell Common & Fields had received The Green Flag award again this year, Jacqui said that it should be in the local paper (The Informer) this week.

4.3 Future Activities

a) Autumn Event. The event scheduled for September 6th has been cancelled.

b) Woodland Improvement Days . FR to write to Gaye/Yvonne and suggest that we need a date.

Robin mentioned new graffiti (park dept has been informed)

c) Sports facilities. Boules, there are 40 people on the 'interest' list, this takes place on alternate Sundays and about eight people turn up and there are 4/5 people who lead the day in turn.

d) Table/bench See 4.2 b)

e) Small Grant Funding. Andy will keep this in mind, the dead line for March 2010 is close, we could possibly need it for woodland expenditure in the future.

f) **Winter activity.** It was agreed that members of the Committee would help with the tree planting in the late autumn.

The Council, using a garden designer, will come up with a plan for the Orchard and tree planting, it is hoped that more mature trees will be used so that less damage can be caused. An outline plan for the woodland management is due by the end of the year.

4.4 Public Meetings & Community Involvement

a) **Publicity.** Send a newsletter to The Friends

b) **Website.** FR had added a postcard. Also a local artist had drawn a sketch of the day which we could possibly reproduce as a postcard, it was agreed to hold this until hopefully there was a café where it could be sold. FR mentioned The Beverley Brook walk which could be put on the website. Andy will raise at the PCTV meeting - will discuss. Robin asked if softball was on the website.

5 Any Other Business

The issue of the title of Deputy Chairman was raised, The Committee ratified the appointment of Robin Laidlaw as a Deputy Chairman.

Dhun Kenny said that a member had offered to help with membership matters and Dhun would like to accept help as she is very busy. The Committee agreed.

Other Committee members specific responsibilities were noted:

FR Newsletters and Committee Meetings

RL The Pavilion development & distribution of leaflets

AS Finance & sport events

JP & RM eventually oversee the woodland development

The next important issue for the Committee was to set up the public meeting to discuss the Plans for the development of the Pavilion. FR is away from the 3rd to the 28th September, the consultation should take place in September and Robin will know what is happening. The Committee should plan to hold a public meeting for The Friends in early October.

The Plans could be put up in Sheen Library.

RL will e-mail Graham Beattie and ask him how he would like us to be involved.

The All Saints Church Hall needs to be reserved.

6. Date of Next Meeting - to be arranged.