

# Friends of Palewell Common & Fields

## Minutes of Meeting held on 28th May at 7.30 p.m. in the Club Room

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

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Francis Rowland and Len Griffiths

**2. Welcome new Committee Members:** The Chairman welcomed David Evans to the Committee and thanked him for taking on the role of Treasurer. It was noted that Heather Ward, a local resident might join the Committee.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting on 14th March 2012:** The Minutes were approved

**4. Report on AGM:** The Chairman thought that it had been a good AGM and that there had been good engagement with members. **AS** had subsequently spoken to Ken Cook, who audits the accounts, about the timing of the AGM, he proposed that the AGM be moved on a month to a date in mid-May. This was agreed.

Among matters raised by several members at the meeting was the issue of safety on the Common: **AS** had had a meeting with Anthony (Ranjeet's husband) and spoke about Pistaschios, he is a police officer and has experience and is sensitive to safety issues, they are happy for young people using the Common to be encouraged to use the café as a place where they can get help should any incident occur, Ranjeet and her staff would be there to support them. This should be encouraged. **RM** will speak to the local police. She raised the question of CRB checks and also mentioned the kiosk as another point of safety for young people.

Park Strategy and sports had been discussed in depth at the AGM and are on the Agenda items 6 and 7.

### **5. Treasurer's Report & Membership, Budget for 2012/13:**

**David Evans** informed the committee that the balance at the bank is £1,453 with an additional £50 of subscriptions awaiting payment into the account. David agreed to prepare a draft budget for the year to be considered at the next meeting.

The Committee agreed that David Evans should become a signatory on the bank account and the Chairman, the Secretary and David Evans signed the relevant papers to be submitted to the bank.

**Membership numbers:** **DK** confirmed that 38 members have renewed and 11 new members had joined making a total of 49 members at present.

**Budget for 2012/13:** **JP** confirmed that BTCV give us two days a year without charge, it was felt that we probably need to make provision for 3/4 visits for future years and should make a budget provision of £400.00 a year. **JP** said that Simon's (of BTCV) attendance at the AGM and his explanation of the work they do had been very good and well received.

**AS** said the approximate cost of the AGM was £100.00 and the social event £50.00. He raised the issue of capital items such as the drainage problem outside the café which has not yet been sorted out. The Friends might need to do some minor work and suggested budgeting £100.00 and perhaps arranging for Janusz to help with such work.

It was agreed that we budget £100.00 for miscellaneous printing.

Maintenance for Boules was touched on but **BA** pointed out that it is very small.

A total of approximately £650/£750 should therefore be budgeted for. **DA** will prepare a draft budget for the next meeting.

**6. Future Relationship with Richmond Council:** **AS** informed the Committee that Richmond Council has slowed up progress as to the possible future framework of parks management, he felt it was important that the Friends had a basic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Council so that the Friends would be involved in future discussions and decisions. The tender needs to be in place 1st April 2013. It was originally March/June for the draft. MOU, probably early June. Legal Services about a further six weeks or longer. **JP** commented that Richmond Council would like to see us involved. **AS** confirmed that an MOU would be his preferred option. **To be discussed on 11th July.**

### **7. Update on Sport and Children's Play on Palewell Common:**

**Cricket:** **AS** had spoken to players the previous Wednesday evening, there had been a visit from Ian Moore, Middlesex Cricket Development Officer and he and Richmond Cricket Club had produced some proposals. Richmond would require two pitches and their 4th and 5th teams would play every Sunday.

**BA** liked the idea of regular cricket matches but also liked the idea of other teams being able to use the pitches. **DE** thought that there might be resistance from local people if the use of the pitches were given to one club he also said it was essential to know what investment would be needed. Richmond Cricket Club has ideas of essential requirements and other ideas which would be desirable, among them another Pavilion. **AS** said we would need to know what was essential and what was desirable. Stage 1 would be to get one pitch to a good standard.

**Boules:** **BA** informed the committee that the new surface is very popular and looks more durable, it had not been expensive, about £35 to provide the grit. The current situation is very positive. Len Griffiths is there for most meetings of the group. They play on Tuesday evenings and alternative Fridays and Sundays and Len leads the sessions. At present the two pistes can cope with the numbers who play if these numbers grow it might be necessary to provide more pistes which could be a problem. **AS** agreed that it was going very well and **JP** said it might be possible to get a sponsor.

**Golf:** **FR** had e-mailed **AS** and **BA** about discussions with Etienne (the golf pro) and with Peter Dunning. There had also been e-mails from U3A who had been using the course.

**FR** had raised two possibilities: 1) A society based there which could develop into a group. 2) the cost of playing 2/3 times a week mounted up he suggested establishing a card at a cost of say £25.00 for ten rounds with certain restrictions.

He also proposed the possibility of a net to help to develop the long game. There was concern as to where these nets could be positioned. **DE** raised the problem of local houses and of children and felt they would need to be positioned the other side of the brook. The possibility of having nets available for the Join In Weekend on the 18th/19th August was raised. It was agreed that any nets could only be in use when Etienne was on site.

**Skateboard:** A number of Committee members were absolutely against the idea of skateboard facilities on the common or in the playground. **AS** said that this was really a scooter facility for younger children. Again several of the Committee were not in favour.

**Sandpit:** Heather Ward, a local resident, was interested in a sandpit being provided within the playground, the Committee had mixed views about this. It will be put on a future agenda for discussion.

**Join In Weekend 18th/19th August:** AS explained that this is being held on this weekend to link the Olympic Games and the Para Olympic Games and to encourage communities to hold an activity weekend. To be discussed.

**8. Pistachios:** AS commented that the café was improving with time and experience.

**9. Environmental Improvements with BTCV:** Following on from the successful BTCV date on the 19th April AS asked JP and RM to discuss with Simon of BTCV and co-ordinate a number of dates for 2012/13.

**10. Events in 2012/13:** AS asked the committee to consider holding an event for the Join In Weekend of 18th/19th August. Various sporting events could form the basis of the day and the Committee favoured having a marquee as a central point for the Friends of Palewell Common and possibly holding a reception with some refreshments at midday. This would also promote membership. A Leaflet and a Board setting out details will be discussed.

**11. Any Other Business:** Nursery School, Palewell Common Drive. A variation of condition of the original planning consent has been applied for and local residents have been asked for their comments. The request is to increase the number of children attending the nursery from 50 to 56. An additional request has been made to extend the use to allow up to 20 children aged up to 16 years to attend for private tuition between the hours of 18.00 and 20.00. The Committee expressed some concerns at the change mainly concerning the increased intensity of use of the site.

**Joyriders:** RM informed the Committee that there had been joyriders using the triangle at the weekend and she had telephoned the police to report the incident, the noise had been very bad. She had also e-mailed the community police. There has been discussion about having the van with cameras back, there will be a meeting in July when a decision will be made.

RM had also seen Gaye Galvin and had passed on the Committee's congratulations on the birth of her son.

DK said that John Blundell was keen to work with Tony Dowson to update the website and was particularly keen to contact the gentleman who had attended the AGM and had shown very interesting early photographs of Palewell Common to see if he would be happy for them to be put on the website. AH will get a contact number for DK.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 11th July 2012.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.