

# Friends of Palewell Common & Fields

## Minutes of Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.

1. Francis Rowland welcomed the members of the Committee. Apologies for absence were received from Sally Troen, Bernard Adams, Gaye Galvin, Victoria Webb, David Foster and Anne Rowland.
2. Francis Rowland introduced, and warmly welcomed, three new Committee members, Jacqueline Pattison, Robin Laidlaw and Andrew Hill who is Chairman of the Mortlake with East Sheen Society.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

### 4.1 Constitution.

Francis Rowland had circulated a draft Constitution. The following amendments were proposed:

1. The formal name will be Friends of Palewell Common and Fields but we agreed that this will be shortened to Friends of Palewell Common for normal use. (F.R)
- 2.2 For Park read Common (Tally Foster)
3. Include Barnes Horticultural & Allotment Society (Tally Foster)
- 11.2 Alter Members to read Committee (Tally Foster)

*The Constitution was approved and accepted.*

FR will make amendments and sign original copy for the Friends.

### 4.2 Election of officers:

The following Appointments to the Committee were approved by the members:

Francis Rowland Chairman  
Jacqueline Pattison Deputy Chairman  
Treasurer to be appointed  
Rikki Marks  
Robin Laidlaw  
Dhun Kenny Acting Membership Secretary  
Angela Howorth Secretary

### 4.3 Define Initial Projects:

**Membership and fees:** The Chairman proposed an individual membership fee of £5.00 and a Family Membership fee of £10.00. He had agreed in principle with Peter Dunning that Friends would receive a discount for Golf and Tennis but was awaiting a firm proposal. Robin Laidlaw suggested perhaps 20% discount. A decision on Corporate membership was left open.

*The Committee approved the Fees.*

The Chairman presented a draft Membership Form which was approved. A Bank Account needs to be established and a Treasurer appointed.

*In the interim Dhun Kenny will coordinate all membership records and fees.*

### **Pavilion improvements:**

The Chairman suggested that the committee undertake some refurbishment of the kiosk, the Council will provide paint if we can find volunteers to paint the building.

The public toilets are not serviceable and we need to write to Paul Chadwick, Assistant Director of Environment, to ensure that this is rectified as it is a major irritant to all users of the Common.

The long term plan for the Pavilion is of great importance.

*It was agreed that Jacqueline Pattison would write to the Council asking for an update on their current position on the future of the Pavilion and also write to them about the state of the lavatories*

There is a young man called Neil on site every day who is responsible for general work around the site, including picking up litter.

*It was agreed that the committee members get to know him and encourage him in helping us to maintain and improve the site.*

A number of members expressed the view that a good coffee shop/café would be welcome. The Chairman said that Peter Dunning would hope to be involved in any such development. Andrew Hill pointed out that the re-instated café at Marble Hill is a great success. Concern was expressed that the last café was taken over by Sheen School and local visitors/ residents were deterred from using it. Rikki Marks expressed concern that Peter Dunning was going to put in for planning permission to extend the kiosk which would not be popular. The Chairman said that Peter Dunning has asked to take over the Pavilion so we should co-operate with him as he wants better facilities and was constructive.

Robin Laidlaw asked if a Health & Safety check had been carried out on the Pavilion. John Holroyd replied that we would need to get that report but the Chairman was not sure that we would be allowed to see it.

*Once we have a response from the Council we could, as Friends of Palewell Common, lobby our local Councillors. It was recommended that we ask for a **response from the Council by the end of May.***

A Committee member raised the issue of closing gates, they were supposed to be automatic, and Rikki Marks pointed out that the barrier was often left open.

*John Holroyd undertook to look into this.*

**Woodland Improvements:** The Chairman explained that BTCV is responsible for co-ordinating the work. Richmond Council fund the basic cost of £124 per day and this covers health & safety, tools and supervision. Simon Hawkins is the main contact. They are scheduled to work on Palewell Common on May 8<sup>th</sup> and all volunteers are welcome. The next available date after that is July 20<sup>th</sup> and it might be possible to have a set date each month (e.g. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month).

*The Committee agreed in principle that this would be useful.*

The Chairman expressed his wish that we get the local schools involved. Chrissie Proctor said that she would be able to get bulbs from local nurseries at the end of the season and perhaps the schools could help with planting these in designated areas.

Chrissie Proctor asked if the Council were responsible for work on the trees, she also drew attention to a serious Japanese knot weed problem in the wood. The Chairman said that there is a 10 year woodland management plan which is on the website. Tasha Hunter is the Ecology Officer.

*We agreed that it would be helpful if Chrissie spoke to her.*

Rikki Marks pointed out that about a year ago Community Service people were helping in the woodland. Jacqueline Pattison asked if it might be possible for Community Service people to help with the toilets.

*The Chairman asked John Holroyd to see if this was a possibility.*

**Sports Facilities:** The Chairman said that work to repair the Boules pitch had commenced and this would be completed by 15<sup>th</sup> May. Robin Laidlaw pointed out that there was very little awareness of the facility. The Chairman said that Bernard Adams will be producing an instruction sheet which will be handed out at the golf kiosk and this would hopefully encourage new players. He also said that Bernard Adams was trying to organise a Palewell Petanque Club with regular meetings which he hoped would attract more people.

**Safety & Security:** The Chairman explained that we are in contact with the East Sheen Safer Neighbourhood Team, the Team Leader is Sgt. Robert Bolton, and he would be supplying the Friends with 200 fridge magnets so that we can make local people aware of the number to call when problems arise. It was also agreed that the relevant numbers would be displayed on the notice board. Chrissie Proctor told the meeting of her recent experience when she was confronted by a semi-naked jogger in the woods when walking her dog, Robin Laidlaw said that his daughter had also seen the same man, Chrissie had called the police but they arrived too late to apprehend him.

*Dhun Kenny will inform Victoria Webb and Sally Troen who will manage the relationship with the Safer Neighbourhood Team.*

All Friends should be encouraged to call the East Sheen Team in the event of safety problems.

Chrissie Proctor asked who is responsible for the verges of Beverley Brook as she had recently encountered problems when trying to get help to rescue a drowned dog, Rikki Marks thought it was the Water Board but John Holroyd said that there was confusion as to responsibility.

*John agreed to see if responsibility could be clarified.*

**Young People & Schools Initiatives:** This had been raised earlier in connection with the Woodland however the Chairman asked that Committee members think of ways in which to involve the schools. Jacqueline Pattison said that All Saints have a play week in the summer which is attended by about eighty young people and she thought they might like to be involved.

*Jacqui and Robin will follow this up.*

**Publicity:** The Chairman thanked Robin Laidlaw for introducing him to Maia Dickson who was helping to build a website, this was being prepared and would set out who the Friends are, publicise events, publish a newsletter and he hoped develop links with other societies. The Parks Department have agreed to pay for the site and it should be up and running by next week.

Andrew Hill agreed that one has to have a website but that, in his experience, not many people who are existing members look at it, it is used for basic information. Jacqueline Pattison said that All Saints Choir has a good website developed by a local resident who might help the Friends.

#### **4.4 Affiliation with other local groups:**

The Chairman invited Andrew Hill to give a brief overview of the Mortlake with East Sheen Society. The Society was established 40 years ago to focus on maintaining and improving the built environment, they look at planning applications but do not take up individual cases but try to look at things from a point of principle e.g. Waitrose. In the past they have been involved with the Red Route: they put up Christmas trees and lights: they look after the environment and improve things: they have been involved in and been very responsible for the development of the Sheen Lane Centre. They also organise social events. Not enough people know about the society, they do a quiet but useful job. Jackie Reeves is also on the committee.

The Chairman asked if the Mortlake with East Sheen Society could help in any way with the Pavilion. Andrew agreed that they might be able to help with the derelict building, Francis and Andrew agreed that it is one of the worst eyesores. Andrew said that a good relationship with the local Councillors enabled them to achieve things. *Have sent Minutes to the Councillors.*

Dhun Kenny raised the idea of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust who have run workshops for people. We agreed that this would be followed up later in the year.

**4.5 Green Flag Award:** The judges are visiting Palewell Common on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Rikki Marks and Gaye Galvin are meeting next week to prepare for the visit.

**4.5 Love Parks Week June 14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> :** Bernard Adams has offered to host the day with a Boules competition. Tasha Hunter will do one or two Guided Nature Walks and there is the possibility of a Pitch & Putt competition on the day. The Committee did not make any decision on this.

*Follow up required.*

Penny Cowell drew the Committee's attention to a major Flower Festival taking place at St. Mary's Mortlake on that Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> June.

*We agreed to look at the possibility of moving the proposed event to the following weekend (21/22 June)*  
FR/BA

**4.7 Public Meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30 p.m. at All Saints Church Hall .** Francis Rowland will be away at this time and Jacqueline Pattison agreed to chair the meeting and prepare the Agenda. The Chairman thanked Robin Laidlaw for preparing the draft leaflet. Robin recommended that a telephone contact number be included, the Chairman asked for a volunteer, in the event Robin agreed that he would put his number on the leaflet. Andrew Hill confirmed that this was a good idea as they, (the Mortlake with East Sheen Society) had got into trouble with some members for having only a website as a source of information. Richmond Council will print the leaflets for the Friends and it was agreed that 1,000 should be printed.

*Robin agreed to co-ordinate the distribution and all Committee members agreed to help in delivering the leaflets. It was also agreed that a large notice be placed on the notice board on the common, in the church hall and in the library.*

**4.8 Mortlake Fair 28<sup>th</sup> June.** It was agreed that the Friends of Palewell Common would not take a stall at the Fair. They may consider handing out leaflets.

**4.9 BTCV:** Covered under Item 4.3

**5. Any Other Business:** A committee member suggested that a table be set up and manned for those attending the meeting who wanted to join the Friends. A float would be required.

*T.B.A.*

**6. Date of Next Meeting: June 11<sup>th</sup>** was agreed, the meeting will be held at 51 Hertford Avenue.

The Chairman thanked John Holroyd and Gaye Galvin for their help and support.

The Committee thanked Francis Rowland for the enormous amount of work he had done over the past weeks to establish the Friends, it had been a gigantic task.