

## Minutes of Friends of Hilly Fields Open Meeting: 10 March 2015

1. Present: Rachel Mooney (Chair), Tom Moulton (Secretary), Andrew Harper (Treasurer), Marcus Fox, Symon Knightswood, Helen Mercer, Wayne Dyer (Glendale), Jeanette Singer (Bowls Club), Ruth Meaney, Helen K Ward, Ali Akhtar (Shared Access), Gavin O'Meara (Shared Access)

2. Apologies: Amanda Nelson, Mick Singer

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

3.1 Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct.

4. Shared Access

4.1 Ali Akhtar introduced himself and Gavin O'Meara as employees of Shared Access, a company providing and operating wireless communications infrastructure. The deal offered under the Grassroots Sport scheme (in partnership with the Football Association) would be to provide either: (i) floodlights for sporting activity within the park with integrated antenna systems or: (ii) installation of a telecomms antenna with a sum of money\* given to the Local Authority for handover to the Friends Group. The antenna mast would be 10-15 metres tall and could be suitably 'disguised' to fit into the park environment. The lease would be for 20-25 years after which SA could either take it away or negotiate a new deal with the LA. Hilly Fields park has been identified by O2 as having a poor signal.

4.2 Ali promised to send the Friends Group a presentation about the scheme, information about the company and some photos showing how the antenna mast could be disguised. If we decide to go ahead, then visits would be made by the SA technical team to plan the installation.

\* Initially stated as between £25-£35K, but dropped to £20-£25K during the discussion.

		<b>Action:</b>	
5.	<u>General Maintenance and Park Furniture</u>		
5.1	Lighting: Skanska had never responded to the question and requests raised by friends. Greenscene had removed many of surplus posts and Skanska had confirmed that further work to wrongly sited posts would have to be paid for by council. Agreed waste of time to pursue the matter any further.		
5.2	Table tennis table: agreed to leave in place and continue to improve ground around with sand and bark mulch. Rachel will get cost for second table.	<b>RM</b>	
5.3	Basketball.Tennis Court fencing: posts in for corner fence, rest in hand (WD). Small hole not mended: Symon to show WD location	<b>SK/WD</b>	
5.4	New Noticeboard: RM applying for £1.7K grant from Metropolitan Parks & Garden Association, this was	<b>MF</b>	

	the quote from manufacturer, unsure if this was large for their grant scheme. MF to look at other options for funding.		
5.5	Playground maintenance: Wayne will meet RM on site. Ladder still worn. Water fountain should be switched on for Easter weekend. But agreed this could happen now as no chance of a hard frost. Pirate ship wooden border needs repair.	<b>WD/RM</b>	
5.6	OS Trig Point: Rachel will get paint, Symon will paint it.	<b>RM/SK</b>	
5.7	Trees: the Friends requested that a one metre unmown ring is left around all trees to prevent damage by mowers. Wayne agreed to arrange.	<b>WD</b>	
5.8	Memorial tree with plaque planted near playground without any consultation. All previous memorial trees have been planted without plaques, tree section was in agreement. Grenescene always said this wasn't a problem and understand we don't have to have memorial plaques.	WD	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Portakabin and Section 106</b>		
6.1	MH has announced that the second £10K has been agreed and is in fact £11K from interest. Friends need to agree how to spend the money. In discussion, the most popular suggestions were:		
	- cross over (setts) at green gate		
	- work to the shade garden eg. new gates		
	- exercise trail or		
	- better exercise facilities		
	- tree swings		
6.2	Other suggestions tabled were: cradle/basket swing in playground or environs; group swing; tree house, platform; repair to stone circle; another set of tyre swings outside playground; bandstand (apply to HLF)		
6.3	Rachel will do table and get costs.	RM	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Park Events and Activities</b>		
7.1	Bulb planting was done.		
7.2	Big Birdwatch on 26 January was a big success, over 100 participants, a record 26 species seen, RSPB also had a stall		
7.3	Wassail on 15 February went well: good attendance, musicians, hot drinks and preceded by a pruning and mulching session.		
7.4	Dawn chorus walk coming up on 31 March, 6 am.		
7.5	Bat walk: agreed to wait until autumn before organising another.		

7.6	Midsummer Fayre is on 20 June: volunteers needed. Clare of BrocSoc has agreed verbally to fund bat lady Jenny (now an MBE) as a one-off. Cost = £257. Agreed Rachel will order more mugs, postcards & Tom will organise quiz.	<b>RM/TM</b>	
8.	<u>Meadows</u>		
8.1	Memorial meadow has been seeded by Glendale.		
8.2	Glendale had cleared and prepared the area along boundary between school and WWI memorial meadow for planting. Marked self sown ash for removal or cutting to hedge level.		
8.3	Hedge plants from Woodland Trust have arrived. To be stored in bothy and divided between Friends and Bowls Club. Planting session to be held along eastern side school railing. RM had asked if Prendergasts wanted to help plant and if they could water.	<b>RM</b>	
9.	<u>Development Plan</u>		
9.1	Orchard and fruiting hedge maintenance done.		
9.2	OH Memorial Garden: TM and RM to see what needs doing.	<b>RM/TM</b>	
9.3	Tree strategy - review it & amend as we see fit.	<b>RM/TM</b>	
9.4	Masterplan - tidy up and send to Martin Hyde.		
10.	<u>Bird Champion</u>		
10.1	Monthly surveys continuing. Good number seen - 23 species in February count. Parakeets are nesting in hole used by woodpeckers last year.		
11.	<u>Dog Issues</u>		
11.1	Symon is now Dog officer for the London Parks Forum.		
12.	<u>Unauthorised Vehicles and Ice Cream Van</u>		
12.1	Symon reported that unauthorised vehicles are still using the park: cars, loud motorbikes and quad bikes.		
12.2	Ice cream van is pumping out diesel fumes by the table tennis and tennis courts. The Friends supported them when their license was at risk, but they have since expanded their hours, arrive at 11.00 and stay to 5/6		

	<p>pm, drive through the park rather than up Eastern Road and park on the grass, rather than on the Lane. The matter was raised with Glendale and John Thompson last year.</p> <p>Wayne thought Glendale had now given them a 5 year license - Wayne will speak to Chris Thomas re the terms of the license. <i>NOTE this is without any consultation or discussion on the complaints.</i></p>		
13.	<u>Bowls Club</u>		
13.1	Jeanette reported: the clubhouse has been condemned. FDBC given use of Bothy as a main club house (park keepers are going part time and will share the facility with FDBC as required). FDBC will start cleaning and decorating the bothy. Council intend to demolish the clubhouse and leave a flat hard area where a temporary building could be erected.		
13.2	Messy shrub land area to left of clubhouse is due to be cleared/tidied imminently, but ensuring a good screen left between club and adjacent houses.		
13.3	New hedge will be planted between OH garden and bowling green next week.		
13.4	Bowling club opens end of April and will be repeating its Open Day/Family Fun Day on Bank Holiday Monday 4 May from 11 am-4 pm.		
13.5	Joint WP for Bowls Club/Friends/Sports new building and wider funding for park proposal to be convened in May.	<b>RM/HM/MF and FDBC</b>	

#### 14. AOB

14.1 Brockley Street Trees have approached Rachel with initial thoughts on an arboretum in the park. In keeping with tree strategy RM had explained there was a preference for native trees and to keep the character of a more natural landscape and not have a mixture of all trees. The idea of an arboretum of native trees was to be discussed further. JT to provide details of Arboretum proposal.

14.2 Black Poplars need to be collected from Brockley Community Garden.

**Action: RM/TM**

**Next Meeting Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 at 7.30 in the cafe**