

Friends of Hilly Fields

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, held 10 June 2014, 7.30 pm, at the Cafe, Hilly Fields

Present: Rachel Mooney (Chair), Helen Mercer, Tom Moulton, Andrew Harper, Keith Ward, Symon Knightswood, Alison Stone, Mike Keogh, Nicola Ferguson, Mick Singer (Bowls Club), Jeanette Singer (Bowls Club), Sylvie Anderson (Bowls Club), Beryl Phillips (Bowls Club), Denis Savin and Nadya Gencheva (both Neighbourhood Community Safety Service)

Apologies: Colm MacCormac

It was agreed that two special items on the bowls club break-ins and the 'Houndwatch' scheme would be added to the agenda and taken before the Annual General Meeting.

1. Bowls Club

Mick Singer described the break-ins that happened at the bowls club on three consecutive nights around or after 10pm. Flowerpots & hanging bowls smashed, memorial bench smashed & on the last night clubhouse broken into, furniture smashed and thrown onto the green causing damage to it. Police response had been quick but the vandals had got away. There had been no incidents since. No reason known why such vindictive behaviour should have occurred. Access was gained via the Shade Garden. Discussions had been held with Glendale but it was unclear what form of protective fencing they would provide.

It was stated that youths had been seen taking drugs in the Shade Garden. Undergrowth too thick and provides cover for rough sleepers etc. Damage also caused to grass on cricket pitch. Measures suggested: CCTV camera in bowls club, improved lighting, increase in police patrols, leafleting.

Advice from Denis and Nadya of NCSS: if drug-taking seen, call 999. If suspicious behaviour seen, call 101 and provide details. Keep record of dates and times.

2. Houndwatch

A form of park dog-walkers watch. Launched in Bexley in partnership with local police. Dogwalkers report anything suspicious seen to police. Symon will investigate further and provide details. Needs key person to organise.

Action: Symon Knightswood

3. AGM

3.1 Rachel gave a summary of the main items in the Annual Report which will be circulated.

3.2 Treasurer's Report

Andrew gave a summary:

Funds received £4354 (inc. two Groundwork UK grants)

Current balance £1212.93 (plus petty cash of less than £100)

Noted that new notice boards being designed will use up some money.

Rachel explained background to the Section 106 money. The meeting felt that it should not be spent on footpaths. Symon agreed to write to local councillors regarding the issues.

Action: Symon Knightswood

Symon asked if missing swing could be replaced in the playground. Rachel confirmed that it's on the Glendale maintenance list.

3.3 Elections

Rachel Mooney re-elected Chair (nominated A Harper, seconded H Mercer)

Tom Moulton elected Secretary (nominated K Ward, seconded R Mooney)

Andrew Harper re-elected Treasurer (nominated R Mooney, seconded H Mercer)

The above were elected unopposed.

4. AOB

4.1 Symon reported that some time ago a Glendale tractor had crushed part of the poppy meadow (before the poppies had flowered). More recently he had stopped a mower from doing similar thing. The operatives said no-one had told them it was a poppy meadow. Glendale management said they had been told. Comment made that Glendale grounds staff were generally too reckless with the mowers.

4.2 Andrew has acquired a 3x6m marquee for the Friends stall at Brocsoc Midsummer Fayre. People would be needed before 9am on the 21st to help erect it. He will also sort out tables. Jenny from the Surrey Bat group coming with bats. Agreed her taxi fares could be paid, given that funding was included within one of the groundwork grants. Andrew would get in touch with Nick Pond to organise an autumn bat walk.

Action: Andrew Harper

4.3 Also agreed to display current version of the Friends development plan for the park, bird champion pics, postcards, last remaining mug. Tom will devise a quiz and circulate for which the cafe will donate voucher prizes. Stall volunteers: Tom, Helen, Rachel, Andrew.

5. Next Meeting

Date of next meeting: **Tuesday 9 September 2014, 7.30** in the cafe.

Bat Walk on Thursday, 18th September, meeting at cafe 6.45pm
Children and adults welcome.