

Friends of Hilly Fields
Minutes of meeting 12th June 2012

Present:

Rachel Mooney (chair), Helen Mercer (Secretary), Andrew Harper (Treasurer), Wayne Dyer (Glendale), Sue Luxton, Josh Franklin (LCS), Colm MacCormac, Jill Jenkins, Ruth Pepper, Tom Moulton, Marcus Fox, Ruth Meaney, Barbara Cyrus and Keith Ward, Fred and Jacqueline (part-time)

Apologies: None

1. Minutes of last meeting: matters arising discussed.
2. Maintenance
 - a) Memorial benches – it was noted that our objections to memorial benches had been ignored and the meeting reiterated the position.
 - b) Drinking fountain – Glendale was due to replace the drinking fountain (in the playground?) Rachel had queried choice of alternative (had specified it previously and it had problems with ease of use and blockages), but had not heard back from Glendale.
 - c) Meadow: there appears to have been no un-mown patches left as previously agreed and as done in previous years, in order to provide habitat for some forms of wildlife.
3. Hillyfields Midsummer fayre. There was a long discussion on this. Agreed that Helen would devise a quiz and be there for most of the day. Andrew will arrange stands for the display and be there for part of the time and Rachel will be around during the day.
4. Prendergast – planning application to extend planning permission for the portakabins to December 2013, an additional 17 months.
Sue Roberts had spoken to Rachel to say there could be an additional £5,000 for the park, with the view to the Friends withdrawing their objections. It was agreed that a letter be written to Lewisham Council to try to clarify what has happened to the s.106 monies promised when the planning application first went through. It was generally felt that in terms of the value for the use of the park, the original request for £8,500 was reasonable.
5. Eastern Road Gate: it was reiterated that Prendergast had agreed at the last meeting of the committee that the gate would be closed until 8:30 am (from whenever the last person left the school. Andrew? Would approach Sue Roberts to see what progress had been made on that arrangement. There was probably still an issue with the gate itself, as the road resurfacing had extended into the park and filled the hole.
6. Development Plan
 - a) Orchard: the next step is to prune in the autumn. Rachel had met Angus on site about additional fruit trees not being planted as specified or paid for. Glendale said they would rectify this, but there was no sign of work being completed.
 - b) Octavia Hill Memorial Garden. Successful work-in reported on but agree we need to arrange a date in July for further planting.
7. Bowling Green: Jill reported on the very successful introductory sessions run as part of the Brockley Max festival.
8. Bird Champion update: Tom reported on the Dawn Chorus event, which was attended by eight people and saw about 23 species. Agreed we would do a Bat Day at dusk one day soon. Andrew would contact Lewisham to see if they could assist with a bat expert.
9. Lewisham Community Sports: Josh reported that he may not be based in Hillyfields this summer holidays due to the building work at Prendergast. He is hoping that that he will be allowed to store equipment in the Bothy (with permission of cricket club)

10. New Cricket Club: Only one weekend fixture has been possible this year due to the weather. Suggested that any future fixtures should be advertised at the café. On the building, disappointment that plans had not been sent to the friends in any time to make comments. Friends had looked into possibility of a green/brown roof in the hope that it could be retrofitted. They had not had an answer back as to whether the cabin as it stands would take a sedum roof. Had the Friends been informed earlier they might have been able to raise additional money for a green roof or involved the Brockley Design Project. It was suggested that Dusty Gedge could be consulted, to see what could be done, but the building could take only limited weight. The access to the changing rooms did not seem to have been thought through in advance either.
11. Café update: Ruth reported that some finishing was needed but otherwise it was going well. Telegraph poles – a telephone connection was needed to the café for security and WiFi. The Friends had not been informed about the telegraph poles and exchange box planned for the park. Nothing had been included on planning drawings. They had objected and John Thompson at Greenscene had said the council would look to remove poles and bury cable. Rachel had not heard anything since. Fred had heard these will now be removed following objections from the Friends and the Council will pay for the trenching work, but the café would not get a phone until July which was causing personal difficulty.
12. AOB: Run England event: they will start trials in July.

Next meeting: Tuesday 11th September 2012, 7.30pm at the café.