

Friends of Hilly Fields

Minutes of meeting 11th September 2012

Present:

Rachel Mooney (chair), Helen Mercer (Secretary), Andrew Harper (Treasurer), Colm MacCormac, Ruth Pepper, Tom Moulton, Bola Agiri, Rob Park, Wayne and Gary (Glendale), Ruth Meaney, Symon Knightswood, Suzanne and Vitto Renna

Apologies: Jill Jenkins

1. Minutes of last meeting: matters arising discussed.
2. Maintenance
 - a) Memorial benches – Chris Thompson, Parks Service Manager, has told Rachel that he was not aware of our the agreement that there should be no memorial benches. He had approached the friends about the position of two new memorial benches. They had reiterated the policy. Rachel had requested that if they were being put in anyway, could the people concerned be told that long term the friends were working on there bespoke benches and odd benches would be moved into the playground or other less key locations. The benches had been put in anyway, and it was thought the issue had not been discussed. CT had sent message to friends that in future he will always consult with the group. Friends reiterated that it should not need discussion; the request could be turned down. Other parks had policies for no memorial trees etc. AH had sent emails to CT on matter, but had not had a reply. There were now 4 memorial benches even though the friends had agreed policy prior to any bench going in. One reason was that once one bench was allowed, it would be difficult to turn round. RM pointed out that there were 16 people regularly attending meetings who might reasonably have memorial benches, when would there be too many? Idea was to have bespoke design that could be contributed to as memorial. Long term, current benches should be moved to the play area.
 - b) Bench near the meadow is in a bad state of repair.
 - c) Drinking fountain – a new one has been installed but it was noted that the pressure was too great, making it difficult to drink from. RM had queried choice as she had previously specified on a job and knew it was hard to drink from directly, no-one replied to her queries. Glendale said they would check if pressure could be reduced.
 - d) Meadow: General concern at failure to mow meadow at all this year so far.
 - e) Nature's gym have had two sessions clearing brambles at the end of Eastern Road and on Vicars Hill. The cuttings had been left, but in future friends think they should be moved off site. The extent of brambles is too great to keep at bay with nature's gym. Suggested Glendale cut back with machinery, to stop encroaching. To discuss options for next year.
 - f) Plane tree on Vicars Hill entrance: permission was obtained for the felling – due to an insurance claim by resident. The tree fellers will take away the scrub left if we wish.
 - g) Woodland area – some concerns over the considered lack of management over last few years. Adjacent neighbours wanted the area to be locked or with limited access. They had concerns about rules of behaviour there.
 - h) Horse chestnut trees infected – it was noted that last autumn Glendale hoovered the leaves and this made the situation better this year. The same needs to happen again this year.
3. Hillyfields Midsummer fayre. Given the scratch effort this year for our stall we had done quite well and attracted a fair amount of interest.
4. Prendergast – planning application to extend planning permission for the portakabins to December 2012. Costains are the agent for Lewisham Education Partnership the S.106 money has not been spent and with inflation is now worth around £11,000. The friends have written letters and been in communication with planners over the extended use of the park. They have argued that there should be pro rata compensation for this. Any money would go into the Greenscene and could not be paid directly to the friends for use on improvements.
5. Eastern Road Gate: the gate can now close properly so we need to ask Prendergast to do the opening and locking. Resident of Eastern Road are now worried that closing the gate would mean cars doing 3 point turns on Eastern Road and that would be disruptive. Agreed Eastern Road residents to discuss again and Glendale will re-issue guidance eg to Prendergast staff.
6. Development Plan

- a) Orchard: agreed not to mow area by orchard in spring to encourage insects, but to mow in summer, this had not been done and thistles were becoming a problem. They had been told Amazon machine would cut and collect. Noted need to mulch round trees; pruning is planned. RM had been chasing Glendale as the trees they planted were not done as they had requested and paid for. There were no double stakes, cages or sufficient mulching on any trees planted by Glendale. She was going to request their money back.
- b) Octavia Hill Memorial Garden. An additional pre-application for a smaller project has been submitted to the HLF. There will be a meeting to discuss the planting
- 7. Bowling Green: Jill reported bowling will formally end for the year at end of September.
- 8. Bird Champion update: Tom reported count in early July counted 16 species, in August was 14. A Tawny Owl has been heard by Cliffview residents.
- 9. New Cricket Club: Noted the Mayor / Millfield cricket match is due to be held on 16.9.12. Trench dug for electricity supply for the club buildings.
- 10. Café update: Telegraph poles not taken down, waiting on BT, trench for buried cable could not be co-ordinated with the cricket club. Café to organise tea dance for little people for Halloween.
- 11. A student from Prendergast came to discuss his A'level project; to develop a project to design a community centre, theoretically for Hillyfields. He did a survey of people at the meeting asking them about the idea.
- 12. Brockley Design Project: Rob Parks reported that they were applying to the Ladywell Assembly for a grant to re-create a bandstand for a weekend, probably around the time of the Brockley Max, where music events would be held. Users' group supported his application.
- 13. AOB:
 - Fred took a Get Well card to Keith (our former park keeper) from the group
 - Complaint that Shape-U – a fitness group using space along Hillyfields Crescent has bright lighting and is playing high volume music in the early evening, this is intrusive and disturbs neighbours. He said he had paid for using the space. Glendale to follow up, re lights and music. Asked for some control over this. Questions arose as to who gets the money when licences are granted to private individuals.
 - It was requested that the school were asked to remind staff and other users of Eastern Road that the speed limit was 5mph. There is still problems with cars driving in the park. RM requested information on the guidelines that were given to those who were given permission to drive in the park for deliveries etc.

Next meeting: AGM and social 11th December 2012 at the café.

Post meeting notes: Glendale had started cutting meadow in November and machinery had broken down. Nick Pond is on the case and will inspect work when it is completed.

We will be holding our first, Hilly Fields Children's Midwinter Fair: Saturday 8th December, from 11am until 2pm. The Farmers' Market will be running alongside.
Big Bird Watch on Sunday 27th January 2013, time to be confirmed.