

Friends of Keston Common (incorporating Ravensbourne Open Space and Padmall Wood)

Annual General Meeting

7.30 pm

21 March 2018

Jubilee Room, Keston Village Hall

Present :

Please refer to secretary for details

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

LH welcomed everyone to the tenth Annual General Meeting, in particular BS Chair of Friends of Darrick Wood and SL idverde

2. Apologies for absence

Please refer to secretary for details

3. Minutes

Minutes of the AGM held on 22 March 2017 were accepted

Proposed – AG

Seconded – AP

Action : LH to put minutes on the website, with names omitted

4. Matters Arising

5.2 LH had reported the hole by the dead tree in the meadow on Fix My Street; now overgrown so less of a problem

7. Green Flag application went ahead and was successful

5. Chairman's Report (LH)

5.1 Annual Review

- another successful year with a peak of 19 participants one Friday in January, especially helped by new members

- thank you to everyone for their hard work

- 2,865 hours on activities reported in annual statistics submitted to Bromley

- biggest success was in gaining Green Flag Award; thanks to idverde for the application; re-submission for this year has taken place; the site inspection will be at an unspecified time; result known June/July
- activity mornings well supported by idverde; SL took over from IW in July
- a lot of contractual work undertaken, especially in the woodland area and at Pond 4

5.2 various issues

1. the damaged Victorian gate has been removed and is still in repair; may be an issue with bringing it back on site;
2. on pond 1 the islands keep moving and there is still a fallen tree;
3. the waterfall between ponds 1 and 2 and the sluice gate at pond 4 need attention
4. still waiting for an interpretation board at the new roundabout ; SL reported that he is reviewing the second proof
- 5 would also like a noticeboard in the Padmall Wood entrance area and would consider contributing to the funding for this

5.3 publicity

- over 38,000 visits to the website home page, an increase from 30,255 last year
- Facebook followers have increased from 132 last year to 156 this year
- thanks to SC, editor of the Keston Magazine, for items about the common and our activities; a special thanks to BH and TD for their contributions

6. Treasurer's Report (TD)

6.1 Income and Expenditure update

- income increased from £701 in 2016 to £1,238 in 2017; especially from £160 legacy donation on behalf of JH and revenue from Countryside Day;
- hire of the Common by a film company also lucrative
- the £100 Forum grant to all Friends groups was also noted.
- expenditure also increased from £733 in 2016 to £1,323 in 2017; due in part to purchase of two tree poppers at £594.

6.2 Adoption of Accounts

Proposed - FH
Seconded - NL

6.3 Membership

- TD commented on a very pleasing increase in membership

7. Site and Workday Programme (SL)

7.1 Review of Activities Completed and Plans for the Future

- **report attached**

7.2 Matters Arising

- AG asked about the plan for the heathland; SL replied that 10% of the gorse will be left; the bracken is more difficult to control
- LH asked about the plan for the iron age bank; SL confirmed that the aim is to limit access; he is consulting with Historic England about this
- FH asked whether there is another option to bracken pulling which occupies time each year; SL suggested that it might be possible to cover more of the site by breaking and bruising it

8. Review of the Constitution (LH)

- the committee had reviewed the constitution and proposed a small change to Article 2 Aims and Objectives :
 - ‘ To help with practical conservation through voluntary action for the benefit of wildlife and the community *under the supervision of the London Borough of Bromley through its appointed parks’ management contractors* ’
- adopted by a unanimous show of hands

9. Election of Management Committee (LH)

- LH recorded thanks to MC, a founder member of FOKC, who had contributed much to the group, especially his hard work in looking after the tools
- all existing members were standing for re-election and WW was also standing
- a show of hands indicated unanimous support

10. Countryside Day (LH)

- Sunday 24 June 2018
- all paperwork had been submitted and invitations sent to stall holders; a number of positive responses had been received
- it was hoped that music would again be provided by the Morris Men and Keston School, together with singers from the church
- volunteers required for the day
- Keston Village Residents Association less likely to be involved this year due to organising an event to celebrate the royal wedding

11. Friends Forum (LH)

- there are 46 active Friends Groups looking after about half of the borough’s parks
- annual conference will take place from 10 am to 4 pm on Thursday 24 May; keynote speeches by representatives from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and Friends of the Earth; refreshments included
- Friends Forum currently revising its constitution
- the Friends Forum committee meets with idverde on a quarterly basis
- the Friends Forum hosts bi-monthly meetings for its members

12. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

- to take effect on 25 May
- will mainly affect the Treasurer, who holds details of our membership
- will especially need to be careful with group e-mails so that other people's e-mails are not revealed; will also be the right to have individual data removed
- SL advised that there should be an opt-in procedure

13. AOB

13.1 BS asked about advertising for new members; LH confirmed a number of strategies : notice-boards, the Keston Magazine, Facebook. LBB website for volunteers, Friends Forum website, Countryside Day and Keston Village Residents' Association; a few years ago there was support from Waitrose as part of their scheme to help local groups; other supermarkets may now be doing this

13.2 FH asked about the possibility of a sign that could be put up on workdays, similar to that used by the Green Team; SL said he may be able to follow this up

14. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 19 September 2018 at 7.30pm