

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

Open Meeting

7.30 pm

15 July 2015

Jubilee Room, Keston Village Hall

Present :

Please refer to secretary for details.

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

LH welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Councillor Ruth Bennett and Alan Filby

2. Apologies for absence

Please refer to secretary for details.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 March, 2015 were accepted

Proposed – MC

Seconded –AP

4. Matters Arising

13.1 - proposed customer satisfaction survey postponed as insufficient people able to help on the chosen date

13.2 - action taken to point out the hydrology implications of the all weather pitch at Keston School.

RB confirmed that it is going ahead and suggested that the school may be granted an appeal an extension to 8pm as the permitted time

5. Chairman's Report (LH)

5.1 Countryside Day

- LH thanked everyone for their contributions to a most successful day
- £270 raised on the FOKC stall - £115 from the adult raffle, about £50 from plants, £45 from the tombola, £20 from cakes and other items and £40 donations from stallholders
- apologies received from the Fire Brigade and English Heritage
- TD reported that stallholders seemed happy with the event
- AG commented on the good range of stalls

5.2 Insurance

- TLG have put in place insurance cover when we are working on our own and this is better than the previous cover; some additional cover has been taken out for use of poison and the brush cutter; it was not thought necessary to have additional cover for our tools as TLG would make up any loss; trustee indemnity insurance for the committee was felt unnecessary
- TD asked about first aid for wasp stings and LH confirmed that this is in hand

5.3 TLG Update

- 1 June TLG took over maintenance of parks and is now interviewing for jobs; Patrick Phillips has become Director of Strategy, two TLG staff have become general managers and Louise Simpson is now General Manager, Countryside

5.4 Friends' Forum Update

- about half of the groups have signed up for the TLG insurance; the Hayes Common group is talking to the Council as they have bonfires over several days, in keeping with woodland conservation, and this would not be covered by TLG; FOKC puts fires out
- Friends' Forum will be represented on the board set up to monitor the work of TLG and provide feedback in relation to its contract; the first meeting is expected to be in October
- LH invited members to attend the Friends' Forum AGM at 7 pm on 18 November at the Civic Centre
- at the Friends' Forum conference in June TLG came over as a 'can do' organisation; LH is in discussion with TLG about generic policies, such as risk assessments
- the meeting commended LH as Chair of Friends' Forum and its reflection on FOKC

5.5 Website/Facebook

- increase in visits to the site : about 15,000 in March, now 17,620, with the history page having the most visits
- 60 friends on Facebook
- the Bromley website for volunteering is another source of publicity

6. Treasurer's Report (TD)

6.1 Membership

- about 40 individuals, including family members; 16 people form the core of active members and there are usually about 12 each Friday
- can also include the 240 honorary members at Keston Primary School

6.2 Accounts

- the last reported balance of £112 has now risen to £1472 due to the final instalment from the Heritage Lottery Fund, money raised on Countryside Day, £100 from Bromley and donations
- main item of expenditure has been on maps of the site including habitats, biodiversity and hazards

7. Site Report (JP) (see attached)

7.1 Matters Arising

- it was felt that the site report did not reflect the other activities undertaken by members, especially bracken pulling, gorse cutting and pathways clearance
- MC asked whether any charge was made for film crews using the site
Action : RB to investigate with Bromley Council
- LH confirmed that the work plan for August is undefined at present but it is possible that JP or RF will be available to supervise activities
- FH drew attention to the top meadow near the school as this needs attention
- AF said that Friends of Darrick Wood regularly scallop brambles
- MC alerted members to the problem of Japanese knotweed which is getting out of control along the Ravensbourne and to the prevalence of rats, especially between ponds 1 and 2
- TD said that sweet chestnut is suffering
- RB confirmed that there is no mention of ash die-back in the area

8. AOB

8.1 Enforcement Orders

- RB informed the meeting that Jo Johnson, M.P. for Orpington, is pursuing measures to strengthen councils' hands in respect of enforcement orders against campers; Councillor Smith is seeking similar measures against fly tipping

8.2 Donations

- TD thanked RB for being a member and for her donation

8.3 Grants

- LH asked whether the group should apply for another grant; the playground and the waterfall between the top and middle ponds might be projects
- TLG is not involved in capital expenditure which remains with the Council
- CL pointed out that the bid process depends on support from members, possibly through the formation of a small committee
- information about different grants is available on the Bromley and Heritage Lottery Fund websites

9. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11 November 2015

to be confirmed

C. Lloyd

22.7.15