

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

## **Open Meeting**

7.30 pm  
11 November 2015  
Jubilee Room, Keston Village Hall

## **Present :**

*Please refer to secretary of details*

## **Minutes**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

LH welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **2. Apologies for absence**

*Please refer to secretary of details*

### **3. Previous Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2015 were accepted

Proposed – MC

Seconded –AP

### **4. Matters Arising**

7.1 RB had reported that Bromley Council does make charges for the use of sites such as Keston, but it was still unclear whether ‘ancient custom’ would preclude this for common land.

### **5. Chairman’s Report (LH)**

#### **5.1 Committee News**

- committee had met in October : trying to keep up-to-date with important local issues – Biggin Hill developments, the roundabout at the top of Heathfield Road and The Landscape Group (TLG ); FH had provided an update on biodiversity issues following a meeting with representatives from other groups in Bromley

#### **5.2 TLG**

- on 8<sup>th</sup> June all aspects of parks management became the responsibility of TLG; the organisation is based in Coventry and is the largest contractor for parks and landscapes in the UK. In the interim TLG have been formalising their structure and staffing arrangements and this was completed as of 1<sup>st</sup> November

- the meeting considered a flow chart showing the new structure ; the borough is divided into three neighbourhoods – east, west and south; Keston is part of the south neighbourhood under Louise Simpson as General Manager; our first point of call after Louise is Pherenice Worsey-Buck, Senior Community Manager; we could also refer any matter of concern to Sue Holland; day to day matters to be managed by Jenny Price and Richard Foster

- there is a vacancy to replace Nick Hopkins as Community and Conservation Team Leader
- contracts director has now been appointed - Frank Kleinhans
- there would be an opportunity to meet the team 9.30-11.30 am on 17 November at High Elms
- TLG has issued a strategy document with 31 projects over the next year

### **5.3 Friends' Forum**

- is monitoring developments under TLG
- has negotiated insurance and partnership agreement
- now working on health and safety matters and agreed with TLG to produce a booklet for volunteers based around TLG's employee handbook
- clarified that signing in and out not a requirement as long as a record of participants is kept
- confirmed that any activities done by volunteers is additional to the contract work of TLG
- FH reported that there seemed to be anxiety about responsibility for health and safety; LH emphasised that we have our own insurance
- Friends' Forum AGM to take place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 18 November in the Council Chamber; Councillor Smith and TLG representatives to be present
- Friends' Forum represented on the Executive Stakeholder Panel to determine how TLG's work is to be measured
- MC expressed concern that TLG representatives have no identifiable authority to follow up misdemeanours; LH said that Toby Smith's Ward Security Team is still in place

### **6. Treasurer's Report (TD)**

- as of 9<sup>th</sup> November £1470.50 in the bank ; largely from the last tranche from the Heritage Lottery Fund together with £260 from Countryside Day
- Committee agreed to return the £10 Countryside Day donation by Demelza House, as they themselves are a charity
- £50 donation made to Keston Parish Magazine, to cover 2014 and 2015
- other expenditure : plaque for the Jubilee tree, tool replacement and laminated site maps
- balance of about £1200
- LH asked whether members would be interested in the purchase of a long-sleeved T shirt or a fleece as part of a joint order with Friends of Darrick Wood

**Action** : FH to do a survey of members

### **7. Site Report**

- no TLG site report was available and remains pending
- activity schedule for November and December has been issued
- LH will request a meeting with either Pherenice Worsley-Buck or Sue Holland to walk the site; playground to be included as a priority

**Action** : LH to follow up with Pherenice Worsley-Buck

## **8. AOB**

**8.1** TH asked if there are plans to apply for another grant. TD advised that we would need to look first at what the funding bodies are offering

**8.2** FH expressed concern about the proliferation of memorial benches

**Action** : LH to follow up with Pherenice Worsley-Buck

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 16 March 2016

**10.** The meeting concluded with a talk by Tudor Davies on two Keston houses with an Indian connection

C. Lloyd  
27 November 2015

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