

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

7.30 pm

21 September 2016

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. Matters Arising from the AGM in March

It was noted that the minutes of the AGM meeting held on 16 March 2016 will be on the agenda of the next AGM, but that matters arising could be considered

§4 (8.2) memorial benches : LH reported that TLG is working on a policy for memorial benches across the borough; FH expressed concern about the a new bench in the middle of Hayes Common
Action: LH to pursue again with TLG, especially with the SSSI status in mind and to ensure that we have prior warning of new benches

§5 website info : there is now more information about biodiversity on both the FOKC and Friends Forum websites

§13 Ravensbourne House planning application : this was now approved by the Council so no further action possible

4. Chairman's Report (LH)

4.1 Committee News

4.1.1 Activity Mornings

- activity mornings have been well attended during the last six months – an average of twelve
- have been changes in leaders during that time and we now have Ian Wright on behalf of TLG
- activity schedule for three months is in place

4.1.2 Countryside Day

- raised £396.50 : about £115 from stall-holder donations, the adult raffle £100, plant sales £75, the tombola £65, cakes about £30, cards and pamphlets £10
- visit by the mayor
- noted that publicity is needed in Biggin Hill
- AF reported a successful event for Friends of Darrick Wood

- date for next year : Sunday 25 June

4.1.3 Website/Facebook

- website visits were 21,496 in March, now 25,486; history page the most popular
- Facebook page had 67 likes in March, now 95

4.1.4 Questions

- AF asked about relations with TLG ; LH reported that matters are going well at present; TLG is investigating suppliers to produce a bespoke FoKC sign to indicate work in progress and also looking at more durable discs for the nature reserve path wayfinders
- LH reported work has been done on the sleepers on the steps by Caesar's Well, and Highways now need to do something about the drainage from Westerham Road

4.2 TLG/Forum Update

- TLG has produced a volunteer health & safety handbook with a lot of useful information and guidelines; these have been given free of charge to all active members
- TLG has developed a new Bromley Parks website which has just gone live; its address is www.bromleyparks.co.uk and it contains details of all 156 parks in the borough; longer term it will be the means of booking an event and reporting issues

Action : any comments on the website to LH

- TLG is working on a volunteer development plan with a task force of 11 representatives from TLG, the Friends Forum, Friends Groups and Community Links Bromley; the topic will be presented at the next Forum meeting on 5 October with a formal launch expected in early November; aims are to look at volunteer opportunities and how succession planning can work; it may also consider how companies in Bromley can help
- Friends Forum had a successful conference in June; 30 participants from Friends groups and 20 from TLG; next year's conference will be in May
- questionnaire about training needs to be issued soon
- there will be the usual request for information about the work of Friends groups this year, but there is no money for this information now that TLG has taken over; Friends Forum may be able to offer some money as an incentive
- Friends Forum AGM is on 16 November (*post meeting note this has now been moved to 23rd Nov*)
- AF asked about new groups and LH confirmed that Norman Park will have a group soon; some other groups are in decline

5. Treasurer's Update (TD)

- current balance £1273
- expenditure in the last year has been about £180; includes tools, pop-up bins, ink, laminates and hire of the hall; contribution of £50 to the parish magazine; £345 spent on fleeces and sweaters but about £250 worth have been sold; £45 on drain rods, a good investment for work on the ponds
- almost £400 from Countryside Day very pleasing and useful in our reserves
- LH thanked TD for completing the Local Green Space designation form and explained that we have not been successful; it should be noted that this is for smaller spaces and we do have other designations
- TD said that the group remains vigilant with regard to developments at Ravensbourne and Forest Lodge

6. Site Report (IW)

IW expressed thanks for support and the friendly welcome; the work programme for the next three months includes heathland restoration and post and rail fencing

7.AOB

None

8. Date of Next Meeting

Our AGM on Wednesday 22 March at 7.30pm

9. History Talk

TD was warmly thanked for a most interesting talk on Keston School