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

7.30 pm
19 September 2018

Jubilee Room, Keston Village Hall

Present

Please refer to secretary for details

Minutes

1.Welcome and Introductions
LH welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially DC and BS

2.Apologies for absence

Please refer to secretary for details

3.Minutes of Meeting 20 September 2017 and Matters Arising

4.2 TD and MC attended a hedge laying course
LS attended a first aid course

4.3 LH reported that the tree by the damaged gate will now be left to rot; there is still work to be done on the iron gate and vehicular access will be needed

7. LH had investigated the purchase of a remote control camera but security concerns mean that this remains under review. BS reported that Friends of Darrick Wood had used a camera for watching badgers and had left it up just for 24 hours

The minutes were accepted.

Proposed – DC
Seconded – NL

4.Update from the AGM in March 2018

Item 12
- LH explained the action taken in response to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) : in line with other Bromley community groups consent is assumed if anyone has signed up to be a member of the group, unless there is a request to be taken off a group

Item13.2
- FH had asked about having a noticeboard that could be put up on workdays; SL is looking into the matter

5. Chairman's Report (LH)

5.1 Committee News

- main activity was Countryside Day which raised £670, including £250 from donations; Thank you to all involved
- BS reported that Friends of Darrick Wood were pleased with the result

5.2 Information Boards

- comments on the design of a new interpretation board to be sited near the roundabout had been accepted and production will go ahead; it will be paid for by a grant from the Woodland Trust ; FoKC has contributed some funding for the art work
- it is hoped that there will be a new notice board in the timber yard at Padmall Wood
- both boards may receive a grant from Friends Forum

5.3 Green Flag Award

- it was announced on 16 July that this has been awarded for 2018-2019; *i*dverde did all the paperwork and five other Bromley sites were also successful

5.4 Publicity

- good publicity still through Facebook, the website and Keston Parish Magazine
- thank you to BH for contributing to the magazine

5.5 Council Update

- management of parks now out to tender with decision to be taken in October; Friends Forum and FoKC hope that *i*dverde retain the contract but have no input into the decision; the contract will last 8 years, starting in April 2019, with automatic renewal after 8 years; AM explained that the decision would be taken on 60% cost and 40% quality of the bid
- there is a proposal to close 10 of the council's 19 depots, including the one at High Elms; this is a matter of concern to friends groups in the south of the borough and especially to the conservation volunteers who use the site two days a week; LH is pursuing the matter on behalf of Friends Forum

5.6 *i*dverde Update

- a number of staff changes have taken place since March
- Biomass pilot project: *i*dverde is investigating the possibility of supplying wood to the energy plant at Sandwich; Padmall Wood, Hayes Common and High Elms could be involved; still looking for a contractor to remove the wood

  DC asked about controls on what is cut; LH explained that this would be within the normal wood clearance remit as agreed with the Woodland Trust; Padmall Wood has been coppiced for hundreds of years

  FH said that a notice would be needed to explain such activity

5.7 Friends Forum Update

- more training courses are being organised : First Aid on 3 November; plans for a hygiene preparation course to facilitate catering at events
- annual grant of £5000 received to support Friends activities; applications for grants are encouraged; the £100 donation to groups for an annual report is under consideration
- AGM on 21 November

6. Treasurer's Update (TD)

- little movement in accounts since January
- transactions include the purchase of an oak tree from a legacy donation on behalf of Jill Hamilton, a donation of £50 to Keston Parish Magazine, the hire of the Jubilee Room and the purchase of two mattocks
- Countryside Day remains the largest income source
- forthcoming expenditure includes a contribution to a new information board and the wreath for Remembrance Day
- LH said that another tree popper may be necessary; the committee would welcome suggestions

7. Site Report

- SL had organised butterfly and reptile transect surveys; TD asked for volunteers to help with the butterfly transect, mainly from May to September
- work continues on Friday mornings on the heathland, the bog, ponds, pathway clearance and post and rail replacement
- waiting for the iron gate to be repaired; TD suggested that meanwhile an application of rust prevention would be desirable
- LH would like to pursue restoration of the water fountain by the former toilet block so that people could refill water bottles; DC pointed out that a similar request relating to the water fountain on Hayes Common had been rejected because of lichen in the stone

8. AOB

8.1 LH drew attention to some forthcoming events that might be of interest : 22 September a Walk for Wildlife organised by Chris Packham; 29 September Bromley Crime Summit at the Civic Centre; 12 October a debate on the environment at Orpington Parish Church and also the inauguration of the Jubilee Park digital information trail

8.2 AM explained that the council has a restraining order to act immediately if the travellers return; the council already provides three pitches for them and can now act more quickly

8.3 DC reported that KVRA has applied for additional funding to have a defibrillator sited at the Greyhound and that there would be a gateway installed on Heathfield Road to calm traffic

9. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 7.30pm

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The meeting concluded with a short talk by NL on How Keston nearly had a Railway